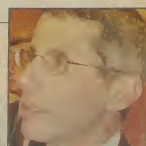


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'Sing-A-Long' schmaltz waltz in San Francisco.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 7 • 15 February 2001

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Health panel OKs benefits for TG city workers

by Cynthia Laird

After years of struggle, transgender employees of the city of San Francisco will receive benefits — including coverage for some surgery — after the 2001-02 benefits package was approved Thursday, February 8 by the city's Health Service Board.

The board voted 5-1 to approve the plan, which includes benefits for all city workers, including the section on transgender benefits. The package next goes to the Board of Supervisors, which is expected to adopt it.

While the number of transgender city employees is small — estimated at only 12 out of a city workforce of 27,000 — Supervisor Mark Leno and a number of transgender activists hailed the historic decision, although Leno, sitting as the Board of Supervisors' representative on the panel, noted the small number of transgender city workers. "It's clearly quite difficult to become employed by the city if one is transgender," he said.

"We've been working on this specific issue to remove exclusions since 1995 and it is astounding and gratifying that the walls have just crumbled," said Jamison Green.

Marcus Arana, an employee with the city's Human Rights Commission, also was pleased with the move but urged the health service board to go further. "I am a city employee who happens to be transsexual and while I do applaud the board for taking this up, I do

urge the board to go a bit further and remove the one-year membership requirement," Arana said.

He was referring to the stipulation that transgender city workers must be enrolled in the health system for one year to receive the genital surgery benefit. That benefit is capped at \$50,000, which also concerned Arana, who noted that sex reassignment surgery for female-to-male transgenders often exceeds that limit and is closer to \$77,000. Other benefits, including hormone therapy and psy-

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Jamison Green



Marcus Arana

Fire damages new Harvey's on Polk

by Dennis Conkin

An early morning fire on Sunday, January 11 at the just-opened Harvey's restaurant and bar on Polk Street drew 38 firefighters to the one-alarm blaze.

The blaze was apparently caused by a grease fire in the kitchen area of the restaurant but damage estimates were not available at press time.

Harvey's manager, Kevin Kropp, said that repairs at the already-popular bar and restaurant are under way, including new equipment as well as interior and exterior repairs, such as replacement of the front windows. Kropp said that Harvey's would be open for business within three weeks.

"We have a cleaning company there right now," Kropp said. "The best we can figure is that it was a grease fire of some type."

Employees had only recently added finishing touches — including a paint job — for the instantly trendy establishment, and there had been a highly celebrated grand opening last Thursday, February 8.

The addition of a full service, gay-identified restaurant and bar to serve tourists and residents of the historic gay area of San Francisco was proving very beneficial, Kropp said.



After a fire Sunday morning, the new Harvey's is boarded up; it will re-open in a few weeks.

Sales had doubled from last Thursday to Friday and doubled again last Saturday. Guests coming to Harvey's for Sunday brunch were disappointed to find the site a disaster area and expressed concern that the

damage might have been caused by a pipe bomb, Kropp said.

The site at 1507 Polk and California Street is the second Harvey's — the first is at the corner of 18th and Castro. ▼

Queer and young in the new millennium

by Katie Szymanski



Participants in LYRICs after school drop-in program clown around at the clubhouse.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. It is a cliché overused everywhere except when describing the lives of queer youth.

Most of us came out long before there was language to describe LGBT youngsters, let alone gay-straight alliances in high schools. Many of us, therefore, view today's world as much easier for teens when it comes to issues of sexuality.

But even in the gay mecca of San Francisco, kids are still harassed at school, disowned from families, and rarely comfortable seeking guidance from queer adults, who are wary of mentorship roles with children and come from an entirely different place in social and political history.

The upcoming Overcoming Homophobia
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Bears come out this weekend!

by Mister Marcus

The annual migration of bear-type men begins as early as today (Thursday, February 15) with the annual International Bear Rendezvous 2001 weekend upon us. Bears of San Francisco and all its committees are geared up for the invasion taking place here with hundreds of furry men and their admirers arriving from as far away as Australia and some European countries, for the brotherhood that highlights the selection of International Mr. Bear and several other sashed titles of the genre.

The host hotel for IBR 2001 is the Ramada Plaza Civic Center Hotel on Market

Street at 8th, which also features a weekend-long Bear Vendor Mart in the Union Square Room. Most of the activities listed below are open to the public, but weekend package ticket holders will participate in other private events.

Activity after registration at the host hotel kicks off this Friday evening, February 16, with a pub crawl from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. beginning at the Lone Star Saloon and continuing to the Hole in the Wall Saloon, My Place, the Eagle Tavern, and the Powerhouse. The contestants for the International Mr. Bear competition will be introduced at 11 p.m. at the Eagle.

On Saturday, February 17, the vendor
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Out for business



Brian Howell tries to sell some of his umbrellas made in Palm Springs to visitors at the Gay and Lesbian Business and Entertainment Expo 2001 held last weekend in San Francisco. The Bill Graham Civic Auditorium was filled with exhibitors and potential customers as the New York-based event came to the city for the first time. Exhibitors as diverse as the British Tourist Authority and Coors beer set up their booths for the free event.

Out in the cold

A fire leaves Castro worker homeless

by Mary Richards

Just about every week in San Francisco people lose their homes because of escalating rents, but in the case of Jessica Clark, her loss was due to something different. It was three weeks ago when she was working at her job in Friendly Spirits on Castro Street that a friend rushed by to tell her the devastating news. There was a fire in the section of the city where she lived, and her apartment was part of the house that burned.

"God, it was incredible," Clark said, when she looked at the building where she used to call home. "There was a big pile of burned out trash in front of the house — you know, the stuff firemen throw out to make sure that there's nothing smoldering."

"The owner's unit is unlivable because it will have to be gutted and probably rebuilt. The structural damage to the top of it is severe. I lived in the bottom in what would have been a garage. It was an in-law, comfortable and small, but it had its own bath. It was like living in a cave with a couple of windows, but considering I was paying very reasonable rent, it was affordable."

When Clark speaks, the anguish of her experience is evident.



Fire victim Jessica Clark

"I feel like a truck hit me," she said. "The fact that my home was just, boom, pulled out from under me, is just more than you can possibly imagine. I've been evicted twice in the last three years from my home, but that wasn't nearly this fast. You had 30 days to prepare. You knew what was coming."

"I am still tripping over things, and I can't find things, and I wonder what I've done, what do I do tomorrow, where am I now. My brain is running a bit ragged, if you will. It's horribly traumatic to lose your home like that."

Although the owner's apartment was virtually destroyed, and

there was water damage that affected her unit, many of Clark's possessions and clothes were intact. Most importantly, her 10-year Old English tabby cat, Secret, was found alive and unhurt.

"The poor baby was terrified," Clark said. "She was my first thought. She's not an outside cat, she doesn't have front claws, and she's just a great big lap kitty. The poor thing was covering in the corner under my computer desk, and I literally had to drag her out. She kept trying to jump out of my arms, she was so scared."

Ken McDonald and David Jessup own Friendly Spirits, where Clark has worked for the last two years, and they have made their in-law apartment available as temporary shelter for her.

"It was very nice that they offered," she said, "because they knew I was stuck out in the cold. It's wonderful, I work for the best guys in the world, for which I'm very grateful."

She's also grateful to the San Francisco Fire Department "for being so fabulous and for putting the blaze out so quickly. They did a wonderful job, because the building looks like it was really engulfed at one time."

Clark said, "The one thing I would tell people, is always prepare

page 5 ►

Workshop series for gay men dealing with breakups starts Wednesday

by Dennis Conkin

A groundbreaking series of seven free Wednesday evening educational workshops for gay men exploring issues surrounding the process of breaking up with a boyfriend, partner, or lover begins on February 21.

Sponsored by New Leaf, the workshops will be conducted by psychotherapist and author Neil Kaminsky, LCSW, and will explore a variety of related issues — from deciding when and how to terminate a relationship to grieving and moving on and then developing healthy relationships.

Kaminsky has been in private practice in San Francisco for nearly 15 years and is author of the book *When It's Time to Leave Your*

Lover — A Guide for Gay Men, published by Haworth Press.

Issues of healthy trust and intimacy and sense of self are issues which often affect gay men in relationships, according to Kaminsky.

"A lot of gay men have issues with honesty and trust," Kaminsky said.

The workshops are geared to cover most aspects of the breaking up process — including information and material for men who find themselves jilted.

The February 21 workshop will cover "Making the Decision," including 18 red flags to watch out for as signs that a relationship is unhealthy. The second session of the series on February 28 is called "Breaking Up Like A Grown-up." The March 7 session, entitled "Gay Divorce," deals with coping, grieving, and attaining closure — and

when and how you should seek professional help if needed. On March 14, Kaminsky will cover becoming friends with your ex — and when you should never see the person again.

The issue of rebound — falling in love right after a breakup — is dealt with in the March 21 session.

The last two sessions of the series on March 28 and April 4 cover post-breakup topics, including life lessons and learning to love again.

The workshops are free, registration is not required, and people can attend any or all of the sessions. The series will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. at New Leaf, 1853 Market Street, in San Francisco. For more information, contact New Leaf at (415) 626-7000, Kaminsky at (415) 677-7980 or e-mail nkaminsky@msn.com. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Court strikes down portion of Prop. 21

by Katie Szymanski

Proposition 21 – the ballot measure overwhelmingly approved by voters last March that allows thousands of juvenile offenders to be tried as adults – was dealt a major blow last Wednesday, February 7 when a state appeals court struck down an important provision of the law.

In a case involving eight San Diego teens who allegedly assaulted and robbed five Mexican farm workers last year, attorneys for the youths argued that the county prosecutor should not be the person deciding the nature – and therefore judicial treatment – of the crime. The California 4th District Court of Appeals agreed, ruling unconstitutional the component of Proposition 21 that transfers the power to determine the severity of a crime from judges to prosecutors. That provision, said the court, violated the U.S. Constitution's separation of powers clause by taking authority from the judicial branch and handing it to the executive branch.

"Today the court reaffirmed a basic principle underlying our system of government – that the authority to prosecute someone for a crime and responsibility for sentencing the guilty should not

be placed in the same hands," said a statement from William LaFond, an attorney for one of the juveniles. "The decision of whether or not to prosecute a juvenile as an adult is, in effect, a sentencing decision, because it pre-determines what will happen to a young person if he or she is convicted. Proposition 21 took that authority away from an impartial judge and gave it to the district attorney, who is by definition a biased advocate in an adversarial system. The court, by striking down this provision, restored the proper balance to our system."

Opponents of Proposition 21 were elated by the ruling, but others cautioned that many provisions of the right-wing "tough on crime" law remain in effect.

"It is a significant ruling but we have to remember that Proposition 21 is much larger than this provision," Robert Kim, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. ACLU-NC is still involved in its own lawsuit against Proposition 21, which is making its way through the Court of Appeals in San Francisco. "There are still hundreds of other provisions that affect minors and adults, so the ruling doesn't gut it, but it does make a dent."

Proposition 21 is far-reaching,

going so far as to define what constitutes a gang and calling for felony charges to be filed against crimes like graffiti. It is considered by opponents to also be a racially charged initiative, hitting hard the crimes mostly associated with youths of color.

And last week's ruling does not mean that juvenile offenders cannot be tried as adults.

"Many minors will continue to be tried as adults," said Kim. "The ruling doesn't affect the process by which minors are transferred to adult court, which existed before Proposition 21. It also doesn't affect a range of cases allowing prosecutors to file directly in adult court as mandated by the state legislature."

The San Diego district attorney has 30 days to appeal the ruling before it takes effect. Should the ruling stand, it will apply to the entire state of California until each district court makes its own ruling applicable to the locality it serves.

Many queer youths and adults were actively involved in the fight to defeat Proposition 21 last year, and the measure was defeated in most of the counties where demonstrations and education occurred. Proposition 21, championed by former Governor Pete Wilson, won statewide with two-thirds of the vote. ▼

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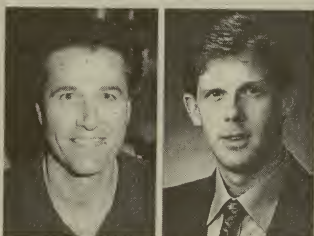
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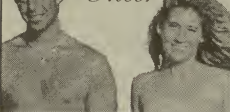
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Twists continue in deadly dog mauling case

Hearing held to determine fate of canine

by Ed Walsh

Just when you thought it couldn't get any more bizarre, the media circus surrounding the mauling death of Diane Whipple intensified this week with reports running the range from erotic photographs to an acknowledgment by an animal control attendant that a key piece of evidence was inadvertently destroyed.

On Tuesday, February 13, attendees in a packed hearing room in City Hall heard two very different versions of what happened on the night of the January 26 attack and two very different accounts on the dispositions of Hera and Bane, the dogs involved in the attack.

The focus of the hearing was to decide whether Hera should be destroyed. Bane was euthanized shortly after the attack. Animal Care and Control recommended at the conclusion of the hearing that Hera also be destroyed. The hearing judge, San Francisco Police Sergeant Bill Herndon, said he would make a decision on Hera's fate in two weeks.

In the course of the hearing, Animal Care and Control attendant, Jessica Young, testified about a blunder that resulted in possible physical evidence of Hera's involvement in the attack being destroyed.

Hera has been kept in the custody of Animal Care and Control since the incident. Young said the dog had her first bowel movement three days after the attack. Young said she noticed what appeared to be blue and white clothing fibers in Hera's feces. That could have been critical evidence in determining Hera's culpability in the attack but Young said someone had picked up and disposed of the



Attorneys Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller at Tuesday's hearing.

waste before she could notify her supervisor about it. No explanation was given over how such a mistake could have happened.

Hera's owner, Robert Noel, later countered Young's statements by testifying that Hera likely picked up the blue and white fibers from a rug and a play ball that he had in his home. He added that he understood that Whipple was wearing khaki-colored clothing at the time of the attack.

Neither Noel nor his wife, Marjorie Knoller, were willing to comment on a bizarre broadcast report that first surfaced on the night before the hearing. KBWB and its sister station KNTV, reported that authorities confiscated nude and sexually suggestive pictures of Knoller from the Pelican Bay prison cell of her newly adopted son, Paul Schneider. The report said the photographs were turned over as potential evidence and at least one of them showed

Knoller scantily clad with one of the dogs involved in the attack. The report cited sources with the Department of Corrections.

"I don't have any comment on that," said Knoller in response to a question from the *Bay Area Reporter* about the photographs. She denied the report in an interview with KPWB/KNTV outside the hearing room.

San Francisco Police Lieutenant Henry Hunter referred questions on the photographs to the Department of Corrections. The CDC did not return the B.A.R.'s call.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Defamation League this week blasted Noel for his adoption of Schneider, a member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang, and criticized Noel for implying that he is being victimized by authorities because he's Jewish.

"Mr. Noel should be ashamed
page 21 ►

Potential wrongful death suit in mauling could be domestic partners rights test case

by Ed Walsh

The fatal dog mauling of Diane Whipple could be a test case on the rights of domestic partners in civil court actions.

Whipple's partner of seven years, Sharon Smith, likely will bring a wrongful death lawsuit against the owners of the two dogs involved in the January 26 attack on Whipple outside the couple's Pacific Heights apartment. Currently, state law allows only spouses or close relatives of victims to recover damages for wrongful death.

"There is no prior case in the state of California dealing directly with the issue of whether a same-sex partner is entitled to bring an action for wrongful death," said Kate Kendell, the executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Kendell told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there were five cases in which an opposite-sex partner has tried to sue for wrongful death but all were thrown out.

"The issue of sexual orientation is an important one, because



Diane Whipple

as everyone knows, heterosexual couples can marry if they wish," said Kendell. "So it's particularly unjust in the case of a lesbian or gay couple to say 'you can't recover for wrongful death because you're not married' while at the same time prohibiting a lesbian or gay couple from getting married.

"In other words, the argument can be made that you can't deny a

remedy when that remedy is dependent on marital status while at the same time closing the door to a couple ever getting that status."

In December, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) introduced AB25, which among other provisions, would provide equal rights to same-sex couples in civil lawsuits. The bill is backed by a half dozen state lawmakers including Senate President John Burton (D-San Francisco.)

Kendell said she was optimistic AB25 would pass this year but she was doubtful it would help Smith. "Unfortunately, it's completely unlikely that if the bill were to pass it would be applied retroactively, so it wouldn't help Sharon Smith. But the existence of the bill, I would argue, is an indication of a change in public attitudes and recognition that this right, the right to sue for wrongful death, should be available to lesbian and gay couples.

"The Sharon Smith case and Diane Whipple's horrific death illustrate very poignantly why a bill like this is necessary," said Kendell. ▼

Controversy continues over alleged homophobic threats

by Katie Szymanski

Tensions around homophobic threats allegedly made by Redevelopment Commissioner Leroy King have continued to brew over the past few days, with King's supporters once again calling for "unity," as if the allegations were frivolous and concocted in order to separate communities.

King, an African American icon in the labor movement, is accused of verbal attacks and threats against Redevelopment Commissioner Mark Dunlop, who has alleged that at an agency meeting on January 23, King told the openly gay Dunlop he was "not a real man," and that his "sickness was starting to affect the mind." He also allegedly said he knew people who could "take care of" Dunlop. Witness to this reported attack was Commissioner Ramon Romero, who has supported Dunlop's account of the events. Supervisor Tom Ammiano has publicly called for King's resignation, Mayor Willie Brown has asked the state attorney general to investigate the matter, and the San Francisco Police Department is looking into the charges as well.

Supporters of King — who at last week's Redevelopment Commission meeting unabashedly used phrases like, "I have many gay friends" and "I have been declared an honorary lesbian" to claim their expertise on what constitutes homophobia — were more subdued at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Monday, February 12, where they didn't have a chance to corner one gay man in a room full of heterosexuals. Public comment, although more po-

lite, still neglected to mention the seriousness of the charges before King, an undisputed leader known for his work on behalf of many marginalized populations.

"When we have icons, please respect that," said labor representative James Bryant to the board. "One climate we cannot let exist is one of separation. We need to put this thing to rest and resolve our differences."

But comments such as these, although they appear to be well-intentioned, in fact dismiss allegations of homophobic attacks as benign enough to be resolved with a simple handshake. And these opinions also are based on the assumption that the allegations are targeted at a certain community, when in fact it is King's supporters — of all colors — who seem determined to make the situation a racial issue.

The seriousness of the allegations was emphasized at a meeting of the Labor Council on Monday night by Denise D'Anne, the council's Pride at Work delegate and also a building inspection commissioner. D'Anne distributed statements that called for investigations of all work-related discrimination, and others denounced colleagues for declaring the Labor Council's support of King without consulting the Pride at Work faction of the council.

"We have too many examples of violence against our community," said D'Anne's statement. "Much of this violence is brought on by the careless expression of verbal slurs."

"As a commissioner of the Department of Building Inspection, it concerns me that a premature exoneration of Mr. King without investigation would expose me to

exactly the same sort of attack alleged by Mr. Dunlop."

D'Anne also stressed the common histories and oppressions of African Americans and gays and said that everyone should come together under the motto, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

City leaders have reportedly been trying to get King and Dunlop together for a discussion, but according to Dunlop, King refuses to do so unless Dunlop drops his charges. King could not be reached for comment.

Mayor Brown has met with both men separately, and according to his spokesman P.J. Johnston, is distraught by the conflict.

"He certainly doesn't agree with the notion that it is a ridiculous charge that should not be looked into immediately," Johnston told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "He does not, however, control members of the African American or labor communities who are speaking their own minds on this; that's something folks are doing on their own. There are disputed versions of what the words were and what they meant, and the mayor has to use caution in how he moves forward. He is certainly distressed and this is causing considerable heartache here in the administration." ▼

Correction

The article, "Redevelopment meeting incites anti-gay anger" in the February 8 *Bay Area Reporter* incorrectly identified some of the people who spoke on behalf of Commissioner Leroy King, who faces charges of making homophobic remarks and threats to Commissioner Mark Dunlop.

The person who spoke as counsel to the NAACP is Peter Graham Cohn, not Peter Graham, as the article stated.

Also, labor leader Josie Mooney of SEIU Local 790, was incorrectly identified as the speaker who stated, among other things, "Every time I make a decision that a gay person doesn't agree with I am called homophobic. Stop accusing us of homophobia just because we disagree with you."

The person who made that statement was SEIU Local 790 member LaWanna Preston.

It should be noted that although Mooney was at the meeting and spoke in support of King, she was upset that Preston's homophobic comments were attributed to her.

While every effort is always made to obtain the correct identities of the speakers in a short amount of time, mistaken attributions sometimes do occur. We regret the error. ▼

Clark

◀ page 2

yourself for the worst, even though it may never happen. Get fire insurance, even though you think you might never need it and even though you have sprinklers. My place had smoke alarms, but what good did that do once the fire started?"

Clark now has to face the tedious and uncertain task of finding a permanent place to live. She's looking for a small studio that she could call home, but she also is willing to share. "Unless you make

\$100,000 a year you really almost can't afford to live here alone," she stated. "We live in the most beautiful city on the planet where most of the people in the world want to come and visit — and we live here. That license to live here is getting shorter and shorter every year, with the escalating cost of maintaining life. The citizens can't afford to live in their own city. It's a rather large tragedy when the people who make the city work have to live outside the city in order to be able to go to work in the city. There's something very wrong with that picture." ▼

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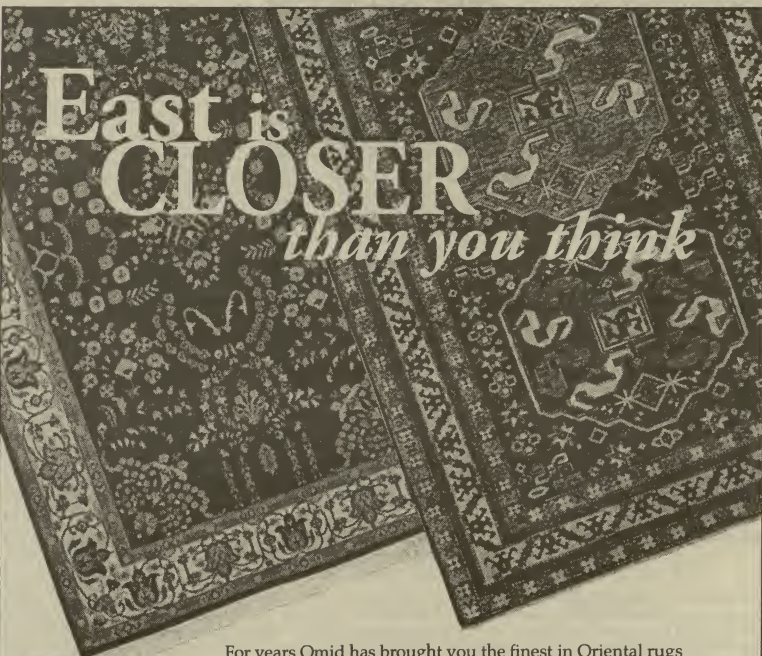


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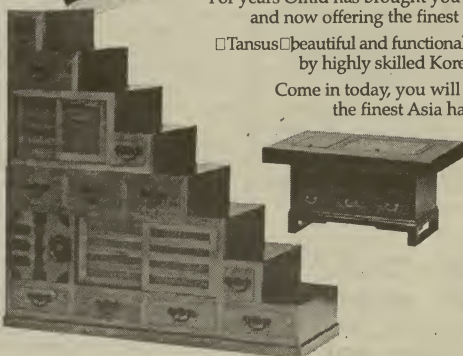
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Picking on transgenders

Something extremely rare occurred last week: the leaders of San Francisco's two gay Democratic clubs, who are not known for seeing eye to eye on much, together sent a letter to the *San Francisco Chronicle* protesting the way that transgenders and Supervisor Mark Leno were written about in recent columns by Phil Matier and Andrew Ross. Funny though, to date, their letter hasn't appeared in the daily newspaper.

The letter, signed by Paul M. Hogan, chair of the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, and Jerry Threet, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, took great exception to Matier and Ross's "not-too-subtle shots at Supervisor Mark Leno for his advocacy on behalf of the city's transgender community."

"Beginning with their January 15 criticism of Supervisor Leno's introduction of transgender medical care legislation ('a slam dunk for the Only in San Francisco Award') and continuing with their tongue-in-cheek tone in noting his attendance at two transgender events in their February 2 column ('Should be one big party'), Matier and Ross show the sort of insensitivity that regrettably is the norm when transgender issues are discussed," their letter stated.

Hogan and Threet also pointed out that until fairly recently equal benefits for lesbian and gay people were considered "just a wacky San Francisco idea..." and added that this is no longer the case because of the work of advocates on the Board of Supervisors. The two even acknowledged that the clubs they represent rarely agree on the issues. In last November's election, for example, the Milk Club backed progressive candidates for supervisor, while the Alice Club backed candidates supported by the mayor. Their disagreements have been aired regularly in this publication by letters to the editor from club members criticizing each other.

Unfortunately, Matier and Ross's latest lapse is not the only time they have poked fun

at the community. A television commercial promoting the *Chronicle* that has aired on occasion shows Matier and Ross in drag, attempting to "get the story" by snooping around City Hall dressed up as women. Is that another dig at the LGBT community?

We, too, are bothered by the recent jabs taken by Matier and Ross, particularly in light of the fact that just last week the city's Health Service Board adopted a benefits package for city workers that for the first time extends benefits such as sex reassignment surgery to city workers who are transgender. That inclusion took several years of work by transgender activists, who got a boost from Supervisor Leno in advocating for the change. The package includes the requirement that transgender city employees

must be enrolled in the city's health plan system for one year before they can take advantage of the surgery benefit. We find this provision discriminatory (no other group has to wait a year before accessing benefits); however, overall we were pleased the health panel adopted the new package that at least starts to address some of the inequities transgender city employees face regarding benefits.

In the future, we hope that—as Hogan and Threet stated in their letter—Matier and Ross will show more respect for transgender issues, and cease in their snide, flippant attempts to be heterosexually humorous at the expense of a group of people who still must fight twice as hard for basic needs such as medical coverage. ▼



Editorial



Gays & economic development

by Kathleen Connell
and Jaye Whittaker

We will never forget the look in the eyes of one person who braved a torrential San Francisco downpour to attend the queer economic development community forum in February 1998—perhaps the first of its kind in the world. While the 30-plus other brave souls migrated from MCC back into the storm, a transgender woman hung back, waiting to speak to us. "Thank you so much," she said. "The problem for many of my friends is employment. We can't get jobs because we can't afford to complete the transition, or we can't afford monthly electrolysis—it's impossible to hold down a job when you have a 5 o'clock shadow to deal with. We are impoverished because of this, and forced to work in the underground economy."

Of course, she was right: there was no support available for getting a few hundred bucks a month to maintain simple dignity and a 9-to-5 job.

While the details may change, the pattern remains the same. As we—the EQ Development Group—held other meetings and conversations around the LGBT community since 1995 to sound out the notion of an economic development/empowerment movement, we discovered profound similarities in our economic circumstances that cut across race, age, gender, and identity, and even economic status and background. These issues include:

- Lesbians worrying about workplace discrimination and retirement savings.
- Gay couples having nowhere to go in the community for personal banking or business lending.
- HIV-positive mid-life people finding hope in the retrovirus cocktails, but limited options for concrete financial support as they seek to fulfill a newly discovered purpose.
- Young gay immigrants to the gay mecca become "at risk" if they do not have a home or a job within three months of disem-

barkation at our own Ellis Island, the corner of Castro and Market.

LGBT folk in promising careers and relationships, combating the 300-plus forms of documented discrimination created by lack of marriage protection.

We also discovered that we are in the dark about our real economic status: no in-depth socioeconomic studies have ever been done on the queer community in San Francisco.

The issue of the economic stability is finally being looked at, in conjunction with the support of Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission, and other community organizations. A recent report resulted from this collaboration, which identifies a multitude of recommendations and economic related issues, including the possibility of forming an LGBT economic task force.

Meanwhile, many in the San Francisco LGBT community are still being impacted by the economic tsunami of the last three years, and a related housing crisis. Studies and reports clearly show that the city did not fulfill its commitment to build out its share of affordable housing. The Planning Commission also is complicit in not putting in place a sustainable, community centered plan for San Francisco, as Portland and other municipalities have done. This is widely known. What is not widely understood except among the politicians in town is this: if economics drives the gay population down in San Francisco, then the LGBT community loses clout. And when we lose clout, the historical safety of San Francisco for gay people is undermined. That is but one of the many economic and political connections we all need to understand and act on.

The HRC report creates the public policy basis from which the public sector can begin to get more deeply interested in the status of our community. Implementing the report's many fine recommendations, created by a broad spectrum of community

members at an HRC hearing, is imperative, especially in the face of an economic downturn and the many perils we face under a Bush administration.

However, City Hall cannot and should not, be looked to to take care of the issue alone. There is much that must be done by our own independent actions to consciously create economic wellness in the community, and in individual lives. Community-based initiatives in the nonprofit and for-profit sectors can work to:

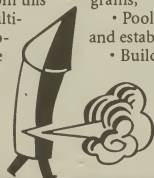
- Bring federal home-buying dollars to the community;
- Create community-based banking programs;
- Pool our indigenous dollars to create and establish new sources of capital;
- Build socially responsible gay owned R&D-based firms, including in the drug sector;
- Focus on lifelong LGBT education, so that we, who are often without family resources, can be viable in the knowledge of the economy;
- Start planning now

for an aging LGBT community.

One thing has become clear to us, as we have worked on economic issues: our lack of coordinated resources in the economic sphere is directly related to our struggles and status in the political and civil rights spheres. Economics, politics, and culture are part of a holistic weave that sets the context in which we create our lives—it is the essential and stabilizing foundation of the pink triangle, the sustainability of a vibrant 21st century global LGBT community. We need to start an LGBT economic miracle, right here, in our backyard, right now, while we still can. ▼

The authors are the founders of the EQ Development Group, a nonprofit community economic development organization.

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Queers come in all colors

First of all, as both a person of color and former president of the Milk Club, I'm appalled to see the type of banter going regarding the Leroy King issue. I rarely raise the issue of my ethnicity, but it would seem that this time I need to get across to those folks who spoke on behalf of Leroy King that even African Americans and Latinos (of which I am both) are queer.

Secondly, as a union member and activist living in San Francisco, Josie Mooney and Walter Johnson did not (and do not) speak on my behalf when they addressed the Redevelopment Commission to speak on behalf of Commissioner King. Many of my friends and associates involved in the labor movement will never espouse the statements of support given on behalf of Leroy King, especially by people who don't live in San Francisco. Publicly however, many people who do know the machinations of SF city politics may be misled into believing that union members believe queer folks go around attacking people of color or accusing heterosexuals of homophobia because they don't agree with them.

The redevelopment meeting was one of the clumsiest, most oafish demonstrations of "solidarity" I've seen or heard about. What Mr. King allegedly said was egregious — plain and simple. Unfortunately, there is overwhelming evidence that this is not the first time Mr. King has done this. What the president of the Labor Council should be doing is asking Mr. King, "How dare you put us in this position?" There is no defense. People are not upset because he is black, white, gay or not gay. People are upset because there are allegations that Leroy King, who is supposed to represent the interests of all San Franciscans, resorted to offensive name-calling and threats in an effort to get his way. Because many of the people who came to speak on Mr. King's behalf believe that the LGBT community is not up to the same standard of humanity as people of color, they chose to ignore that Mr. King may have violated these basic rules of conduct. Raising the issue of racism in an attempt to deflect the issue didn't work for Mabel Teng or Amos Brown, and it's not going to work this time either.

If Mr. King is found culpable, his seat on the commission should go the way of other citizens who abuse the position. Furthermore, this may be the time that our new Board of Supervisors should look at a new way to monitor the behavior of commissioners if the appointing officer chooses not to.

The labor "leaders" who spoke on behalf of Leroy King are fortunate because as straight, middle-class white folks, they can publicly support the fundamental rights of queers and people of color and at the end of the day, while driving out of the city, forget about them. We don't have that luxury and they should be demanding as much justice as we are.

Criss Romero
International Federation of Professional and
Technical Engineers, Local 21
San Francisco

Supports investigation of commissioner

It has come to the attention of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club that Redevelopment Commissioner Leroy King recently publicly attacked Commissioner Mark Dunlop in connection with Commissioner Dunlop's advocacy of a code of ethics for redevelopment commissioners.

Many of Leroy King's defenders at the Redevelopment Commission's meeting last Tuesday justified his remarks by baldly claiming they were not homophobic, and suggesting that the gay community should just "get over" its sensitivity around this issue. They suggested that African American men often challenge one another to "be a man." As a gay man who grew up in a largely African American high school, I can assure my African American brothers and sisters that I understand quite well that such remarks are inherently homophobic, as well as sexist. I often was challenged about whether I was a "man" or instead was a "punk" or a "bitch." Underlying the statements made by King is the belief that being a man is incompatible with being gay. King knows better than to make such statements.

There is no doubt that Commissioner King has done so much good work for so many over the years that he has become a hero to many San Franciscans. Unfortunately, we often refuse to admit the possibility that our heroes are human capable of making serious mistakes.

City commissioners should comport themselves in such a way that they serve as models of civility for the rest of San Francisco. If King made the statements reported above (and the evidence at this time supports the charge that King did make such statements) the lack of civility demonstrated by King is so severe that it calls into question his ability to continue to serve on the commission.

Not only do King's reported statements constitute homophobic and HIV-phobic comments in publicly disparaging a fellow commissioner; such statements

also amount to threatening a commissioner with physical violence for supporting a measure with which King disagrees. Such discriminatory comments against Dunlop would violate city policy forbidding such discrimination and are an affront to civic discourse. King's reported threats against Dunlop, if true, also reach the level of criminal conduct and undermine the ability of citizen commissions to function as an essential component of city government.

San Francisco should be proud that we have so many qualified LGBT individuals serving their city and county on boards and commissions throughout local government. Nevertheless, we must stand firm against those who would abuse their positions by attacking LGBT individuals who give of themselves in such service. We therefore call upon the mayor and the Board of Supervisors to thoroughly investigate the charges against Leroy King, and if the charges leveled against Mr. King are found true, to call for his resignation as commissioner of the Redevelopment Agency. In the event King does resign, we call on Mayor Brown to replace Mr. King with one of the many African American individuals of integrity and civility who are available for service in this capacity.

Jerry Threet, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Keep hormones in check

In regards to your front page article on Gold's Gym ["No 'sex Nazis' at Gold's Gym, manager says," February 8], thank you!

Thanks for getting the word out to all those members or potential members that believe Gold's Gym — or any gym — is a place to carry on sexually. It is not. It is for working out. If people feel the need to indulge their sexual fantasies, they should consider going to the many places that cater to that kind of activity. Instead of investing in a gym membership, maybe they should get a membership to Eros or the Steamworks. Or perhaps the next time the urge hits after a workout, they can keep their hormones in check and get a potential partner's phone number and go on a date. That won't provide the instant sexual gratification they need, but at least they won't be offending others with their blatant exhibitionism. Sex is great and the gym can be a real turn-on, but there's a time and place for everything.

Gwynn Villegas and his staff have done an excellent job in turning the old Market Street Gym into a fully functioning, well-kept facility. I think they have bent over backwards (no pun intended) to try to address the problem of sexual activity, but some people just don't seem to understand that their behavior is both rude and disrespectful to other members. It's not easy balancing the demands of Gold's diverse clientele but Mr. Villegas is really trying to do a good job.

Rick Thoman
San Francisco

Uneasy questions about gym

Dennis Conkin's front page article about Gold's Gym was masterful — not because of what it said but because of everything it did not say.

For over 20 years I have gone to a number of gyms here in San Francisco and Los Angeles. These gyms have been both gay and straight. Never have I seen the kind of attitude, let alone the kind of signage, so prominently on display at Gold's Gym on Market Street. One has certainly never, for example, seen this sort of thing at the old-line Muscle system, which has long been a "serious" gym for many even though it is considered a gay gym. I go to the gym to work out, as do most of my gym acquaintances. I have observed very little out-of-place sexual behavior at the gym over the years, but then, I don't spend much time looking for it.

On the surface, it's easy to talk about San Francisco ordinances, illegal activity, and so on, but that leaves the uneasy question of what's really behind all this with Mr. Villegas and the owners of the gym. Is it homophobic? It, more than ever, certainly seems so. Is it a case of protesting too much, and what, then, is the reason? It really isn't possible to devote yourself to sexual policing and to run a first-rate gym at the same time. If you give your best energy to running a first-rate gym, one result is bound to be that other "problems" will be minimal. Most of us do know the difference between a gym and a bathhouse.

Ed Richardson
San Francisco

Bush's 'confusion'

So the Bush administration unveils with great heavenly fanfare its White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, yet is confused by the very existence of the Office of National AIDS Policy. Guess that leaves those of us with HIV/AIDS to get down on our knees and pray mightily for good health for the next four years.

I hope that along with John Ashcroft, abortion, et

next page ►

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Mailstrom

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al, this puts the nail in the coffin of those fools who insisted that there was no difference between Democrats and Republicans. Like the Reagan-Bush (elder) years we will now again be fighting for our lives.

Marc Huestis
San Francisco

Taking his therapist for a walk

San Francisco's good dog owners all painfully regret the tragedy of the recent canine attacks. The LGBT community has lost another sister. We are all saddened. This shame is yours, Mr. Noel and Ms. Knoller.

In a recent *Newsweek* article, Judith Newman wrote: "To have a dog here is more than just a hedge against solitude. A dog in New York City (or really, any city) is not only your buddy; he's everyone's buddy." I passionately agree. And I know, in the phrase "good dog owner," it is the owner's responsibility to be good. I'd like to share the monumental positive change in the quality of this San Franciscan's life, since recently I acquired my wonderful Bernese Mountain dog, Dr. Hapgood.

So you, too, hunger for a relationship, career satisfaction, a warm and happy home, and a connection with your changing neighborhood. Forget all the endless years of therapy and the helpless self-help books. The greatest social strides I've made over the past decade have come over the past two months, while learning to be a good companion to my pup, Dr. Hapgood. He is training me well.

Like many frenzied singles, by the end of Y2K I was starting to burn out on life in San Francisco. Yes, our mythic mecca can be a very lonely town: the hostile real estate market, the shame of being a "dot-com has-been" in a deflating economy, and painful reminders of substance abuse issues with tweaking on every other corner. When I arrived seven years ago, I admired San Franciscans' respect for the individual. But lately, I have experienced this "exaltation of independence" turning on itself, in the asocial forms like "fear of intimacy" and "affection deprivation."

Of all the goals I set for the new millennium, one has given greater purpose for and opened the door to accomplishing all other goals. That goal was to obtain a pup and to own full responsibility of becoming a loving canine companion. By odd circumstance, as I opened up to life outside myself, life opened up more to me. I knew that raising a healthy, well-adjusted puppy would entail specific canine socialization. I was not prepared for the extent to which it would extend my own social compassion and approachability.

Becoming a good dog owner meant exercising "good citizen" values. Suddenly picking up unexpected poop became a recommitment to social responsibility. Suddenly when passersby saw me panic, finding my baggy had escaped my pocket, neighborly strangers dashed – with pieces of plastic – unexpectedly to my rescue. Now, people who had been invisible to me because of their appearance, gender, or sexual orientation, suddenly became part of my own terre familia.

Puppy protocol is exquisitely simple. They don't wait for a formal introduction to let any stranger know when they are glad to meet them. And while my boundless little furry bundle lavishes his affection indiscriminately, I'm finding myself thanking strangers for their help and asking their names. And more often now, I'm finding myself simply listening to that stranger, rather than my trying to make my own impressive points. And suddenly, we are no longer just passersby, in a cold, lonely, expensive town. Suddenly, amazingly, other lives are opening up to me. My friendly Dr. Hapgood makes few judgments as they pet him; oddly I, too, am finding my own judgments becoming less convoluted.

So in this empty city of endless e-mails and Internet dates that never happen, I'm now getting out more to take walks in an ever-changing neighborhood. With Dr. Hapgood, I am discovering that I indeed am part of a very warm community. Whenever I take my therapist out for a walk, the doctor is always in.

Kip O'Neil
San Francisco

Diane Whipple deserves better

Members of our community who hope for effective prosecution in the dog-mauling death of Diane Whipple shouldn't hold their breath. District Attorney Terence Hallinan has one of the worst prosecution records in California. Plus, he's known for downplaying cases where drugs are involved. The Associated Press recently reported that the killer dogs in this case may have been part of a larger meth-making operation.

To top it off, Hallinan has handed the case over to an assistant, Kimberly Guilfoyle. The *Chronicle* recently reported that Guilfoyle is a former lingerie model and wannabe TV star. As of the writing of this letter (two weeks after the killing), Guilfoyle has not

yet arrested and questioned the two lawyer-suspects in the Whipple case.

Finally, Guilfoyle (again according to the *Chronicle*) is the current girlfriend of Supervisor Gavin Newsom. He's the member of the Board of Supervisors who represents Pacific Heights, where Whipple lived. So far, he's been noticeably quiet in calling on the DA's office to effectively prosecute this case.

Diane Whipple, and all of us, deserve better.

Arthur Evans
San Francisco

Central YMCA responds

On behalf of the board of managers and the management team of the Central YMCA, and as a member, I would like the opportunity to respond to the letter written by Mr. Robert M. Connett, and published in the February 8 issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*. The staff and board of the Central YMCA respect the good work that the *Bay Area Reporter* does to connect and communicate with members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in the Bay Area, and our facility makes this newspaper available, among many other publications, to our members, hotel guests, and staff.

The Central YMCA has stood on the corner of Golden Gate Avenue and Leavenworth Street, in San Francisco's Tenderloin District, for 91 years. This institution, which operates a youth center, a senior center, a free literacy school, as well as a state of the art fitness center, health center, and pool, is a mission-driven, volunteer-based membership organization which opens its doors to all people. The Central YMCA has had a long history of welcoming diversity in our membership, volunteers, staff, and board, and does not exclude any person, regardless of means, gender, age, ethnicity, faith, or sexual orientation from participating in our organization. In return for community and fitness programs which address the needs of our members' bodies, minds, and spirits, we ask only that our members, staff, and board adhere to four core character values and behaviors: honesty, respect, caring, and responsibility. These values form the basis of our honor code and our policies uniformly address and reinforce these character traits.

The Central YMCA has over 5,000 members and 550 youth members. Our staff, volunteers, and members take very seriously the needs and concerns of our community, especially concerning the enforcement of our character values. As a community, and as a membership organization, we believe that inappropriate conduct within our facilities is a violation of the character values of our organization. Any member of our community, be they staff, volunteer, program participant, or board member, who engages in any inappropriate conduct, such as violence, inappropriate sexual behavior, or verbal abuse, within our facilities faces the same consequence: termination of membership. This is in no way an arbitrary policy. Our staff is trained to document any such occurrence before making a decision to terminate a membership, and any event not witnessed by one or more Central YMCA staff members, must be corroborated by one or more members, to ensure the validity of the complaint.

Our community will not tolerate any form of violence, bigotry, or harassing behavior, and we consider each of these to be contrary to the values in which we believe. Mr. Connett mentioned the close friendships and family atmosphere which are so much a part of the experience at the Central YMCA, and we hope that our policies and behaviors ensure a caring and nurturing environment for all who walk through our doors. Our membership has made it known that experiencing or observing any violence, bigotry, harassing behavior, or inappropriate sexual conduct is both unpleasant and unacceptable.

At the Central YMCA, we will respect the dignity, individuality, and confidentiality of anyone who uses our facilities, embrace all who espouse honesty, caring, respect, and responsibility, and protect our members, staff, and volunteers from behaviors which are antithetical to our mission and values.

Mick Hughes
Central YMCA Board of Managers

An East Coast fan

Just a quick note from the East Coast to let you know that with the addition of Gwendolyn Ann Smith's Transmissions column, you've gained another reader.

While I don't always totally agree with everything she says, I must admit she certainly makes me stop and consider her point of view, and that makes me curious to see what she's going to say next.

Veronica Phillips-Moreno
Central Islip, Long Island, New York

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POLITICS

Schwarzenegger eyes gov race – in 2006

by Wayne Friday

Weeks ago, this column mentioned that there was talk – serious talk – during the Bush inaugural festivities in Washington, about an **Arnold Schwarzenegger** for governor race; and the Arnold for governor talk has only increased in the past couple of weeks.

The 53-year-old action film star has been openly talking of his possible political future with the press and last week told the *Los Angeles Times* that he has a real “love for politics” and further told the *Times* that he was warning Governor **Gray Davis** that if he doesn’t show stronger leadership in the current state energy crisis, he (Schwarzenegger) might be willing to take the political plunge as early as next year. In the *Times* interview, Schwarzenegger said “the bottom line is if Davis goes on the way he is, then eventually there will be a vacuum in a year and I could ... I just will leave it open.”

Those California Republicans attending the Bush festivities last month in Washington, D.C. said they are taking the Arnold for governor talk “very seriously” since the fortunes of the California Republican Party couldn’t be much lower than they currently are; Democrats hold all statewide offices except one, control both houses of the Legislature, the state House delegation, and both U.S. Senate seats. Many state Republicans, including state GOP chair **John McGraw**, are said to be looking desperately for someone with name recognition and star quality, plus someone with the ability to finance his own campaign, to take on Davis, possibly as early as next year.

Schwarzenegger, a native of Austria who became a U.S. citizen in 1983, is married to **Maria Shriver**, a correspondent for NBC and the daughter of **Eunice Kennedy Shriver**, the sister of the late **John F. Kennedy**, the late **Robert Kennedy**, and Massachusetts Senator **Ted Kennedy**. In other words, Schwarzenegger, long a Republican icon, is married into American Democratic Party royalty, but the former Mr. Universe tells reporters that “my wife is a strong believer in all that I do and she will be 100 percent behind me; family’s family.” Could we actually see a Schwarzenegger for governor candidacy next year against Davis? Possibly, but not probable.

The famous film star still commands up to \$20 million per movie, but is said by friends to be tiring of the movie business and though actor-politicians are no novelty in this state (remember **Ronald Reagan**? **George Murphy**? **Shirley Temple Black**?), those close to the star of such action classics as *The Terminator* say it is likely that Schwarzenegger will probably spend a couple of more years making films, keeping his hands in California Republican politics, and wait until 2006 to make a serious run for the Statehouse.

Even with Schwarzenegger’s star name and multimillion dollar bank account, many Republicans feel that providing Davis can

eventually come up with a plan to relieve the current energy crisis, he will be a tough incumbent to defeat next year. The long-term Republican plan? Let termed-out Secretary of State **Bill Jones** play the sacrificial lamb role against Davis next year and wait until 2006 when Davis would be barred from another term. With no incumbent Democratic governor and a star name like Schwarzenegger at the top of the ticket in 2006, the California Republican Party could once again become a major party in California politics.

Schwarzenegger would have some political fence-mending to do with the GOP’s far right, however; he is known to favor abortion rights, gay rights, and gun control. He also has that career of action flicks to overcome. As a well-known professor of government in California said last week while discussing the seriousness of a Schwarzenegger candidacy, “when people

think of Arnold Schwarzenegger, they don’t think of quiet, responsible leadership in Sacramento; they think of murderous androids.” And, is Governor Davis at all concerned about a possible Arnold for governor candidacy, even in 2002? **Garry South**, Davis’s top political adviser, said last week that “if he runs, I’m sure it will be on the ... Republican platform of taking gratuitous violence out of our popular culture.” A Schwarzenegger for governor candidacy next year? Not likely. But, an Arnold for governor show in 2006? Don’t bet against it.

Politics and people

Oakland political observers keep pointing out that Mayor **Jerry Brown** has suddenly taken to wearing dark suits, white shirts, and egad – even neck ties during public appearances – a sure sign that he is running for re-election next year and likely has national office in his sights again.



Supervisor Chris Daly

Friends and supporters of Supervisor **Chris Daly** (District 6) are holding a “Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras” party at the Backflip Bar & Grill, Eddy and Larkin streets on February 27, 6-9 p.m. to help the popular young supe retire his campaign debt (346-5584 for info). Incidentally, longtime Board of Supes watchers are saying that all the newly elected supervisors are “digging in, working like hell, trying to do a good job in

their new posts,” with Supes **Matt Gonzalez**, **Jake McGoldrick**, and **Daly** in particular impressing City Hall veterans.

A note to those two longtime lesbian readers who wrote last week after my item on **Carole Migden** possibly running for the Board of Equalization: they asked “why wouldn’t Carole make a great mayor?” I’m with you totally – she’s always been my candidate to succeed Mayor **Willie Brown**, but, hey, first things first.

And yes, yes, folks, I know that the likely next mayor of Paris, France is an openly gay man. He is a Socialist, name is **Bertrand Delanoe** and he’s actually a slight favorite to win next month’s election there. Now, if Los Angeles voters would just elect City Council member **Joel Wachs** as their next mayor in April.

Since there’s been rumors and titters in the tabloids for years about the marriage of **Tom Cruise** and **Nicole Kidman**, I might as well print this one – actually overheard this in The Bar on Castro last week: “Now that Tom and Nicole are divorcing, I trust they will do the right thing and promptly return those two adopted kids of theirs to the prop department at Universal Pictures.”

True, the **Dalai Lama** will be teaching for three days in May at the Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View but forget about getting tickets to this one; the May 17-20 dates for the Nobel Peace Prize winning Buddhist leader’s appearances have been sold out since it was announced at Christmas that His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, was coming to Silicon Valley, but two friends from San Jose have tickets and have already invited me to be their guest to hear the man who nearly 6 million Tibetan Buddhists call “Chenrezi,” Tibetan for “the one who looks down” on the world with compassion.

Ah, Dubya: Apparently, **George W. Bush**’s silly habit of giving all those he comes into contact with cozy nicknames is already wearing a bit thin in Washington. Although East Bay Representative **George Miller** was apparently charmed with his new “Big George” nickname (how cute, Congressman Miller), and some other politicians also are dazzled by the practice, Bush’s folksy habit has seemingly backfired with others. Massachusetts Senator **Ted Kennedy** reportedly stormed out of a bipartisan meeting on education last week after Dubya referred to him as “Chappy.”

Meanwhile, President Bush is reportedly set to appoint Massachusetts Governor **Paul Cellucci** (R) as ambassador to Canada this week, and if that happens, Lieutenant Governor **Jane Swift**, a Republican, would become the new governor, giving the country a record number of female governors (seven).

No less than two congressional committees opened hearings last week in Washington, D.C. on former President **Bill Clinton**’s controversial pardon of fugitive financier **Marc Rich**. Makes you wonder why Clinton does some things, and while I agree with Senator **Dianne Feinstein** that this stupid pardon probably has “no redeeming qualities” one also has to wonder when, if ever, the press

page 11 ►

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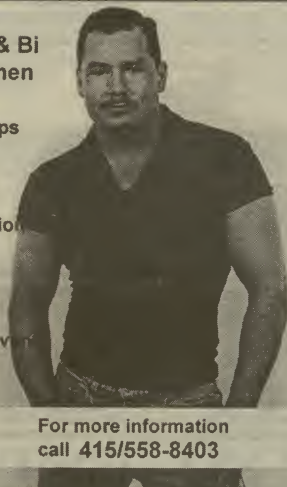
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Fight for same-sex marriage seems stuck in a holding pattern

by Paula Martinac

It's Valentine's Day once again, and my partner and I still aren't married. Like many other lesbian and gay couples, we wonder if we'll ever get the chance. The same-sex marriage movement in this country, which enjoyed a revival after Vermont passed its civil unions law last spring, now appears to be in a holding pattern. Although the U.S. lesbian and gay movement garners the most publicity globally and often takes a leadership role, in the area of same-sex marriage it lags behind other countries.

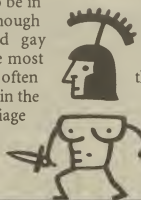
There was some forward momentum here after Vermont, with bills to legalize same-sex marriage introduced into the state legislatures of Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. At a lesbian and gay press summit last April, I heard a number of my colleagues wax enthusiastic about some form of lesbian and gay marriage becoming the law of the land within the next decade.

But then came the 2000 elections. On the positive side, Vermont's pro-civil unions governor, who was being threatened by the right-wing "Take Back Vermont" movement, held onto his post. But at the same time, Nebraska and Nevada passed anti-gay marriage ballot initiatives by overwhelming majorities, bringing the total of states with such laws on the books to a whopping 34.

Unfortunately, some of the pro-gay marriage bills now in the legislatures may turn out to be largely symbolic. New York state Senator Tom Duane, an openly gay man who is sponsoring the gay marriage legislation in his state, said his bill is unlikely to get to the floor for a vote because of fierce Republican opposition. What's more, Duane himself is lukewarm on the marriage bill,

admitting that he views the passage of the Sexual Orientation Non-discrimination Act as far more important. "If you're fired because you're gay [in New York], there's no recourse," Duane told the Associated Press. As a result, even if lesbians and gay men had the right to marry in New York, "you'd be married and penniless [without SONDA]," says Duane.

Add to all this the indignity of the U.S. Congress pushing to eliminate the so-called "marriage penalty tax," with the strong support of the new president. Every time I hear that phrase, I wince — as if married couples, who enjoy 1,000 economic and legal benefits that single people don't, could ever know what discrimination in this area of the



Lesbian Notions

law means.

Clearly, the gay marriage fight is a more complicated one than we wanted to think or that our own leaders encouraged us to believe. Not even the most strident marriage rights activists can talk anymore about packing our bags for Hawaii or Vermont or flooding the courts with lawsuits. I have long maintained that we approached the issue prematurely and without a thorough understanding of why Americans have such an aversion to gay couples marrying.

Abroad, however, there's good news on the gay marriage front from which we in the United States might glean valuable lessons. Just this month, a law in the Netherlands extending legal marriage to lesbian and gay couples went into effect. It replaced a nationwide partnership registration (sort of like Vermont's civil unions), which was a first step instituted by the government in 1998. The new Dutch law only covers citizens and legal residents, and same-sex marriages performed in Amsterdam won't be recognized in other countries. But it's still an important advance.

In Canada, where a majority of citizens support same-sex marriage, the marriage rights movement is also one to keep a close eye on. On January 14, a noteworthy development took place in Toronto when a minister at the local Metropolitan Community Church married a gay male couple and a lesbian couple. But this time it wasn't a commitment ceremony without any legal bite.

The Reverend Brent Hawkes, who officiated at the MCC ceremony, found a brilliant and unique way to use religion — which is so often turned against gay people — to the legal advantage of same-sex couples. Ontario law prohibits gay couples from obtaining civil marriage licenses. But an old Anglo-Christian rite called the "reading of the banns" allows two adults (gender unspecified) to legally marry without a marriage license as long as their intention to wed is publicly declared for three consecutive weeks prior to the ceremony.

Although the two same-sex couples met the requirement of the banns, the Ontario government still refuses to recognize them as legally married. So Hawkes has filed a lawsuit, claiming that the government violated his church's religious freedom by denying its right to marry consenting adults. The newlyweds, too, are expected to bring suit, joining a number of other gay couples in that country who already have lawsuits pending.

It's important for us in the United States not to lose hope or interest in obtaining marriage rights. The fight for same-sex marriage is a global one, in which other countries are making strides that may eventually affect our own struggle for civil rights. ▼

Paula Martinac is the author of seven books, including *The Lesbian and Gay Book of Love and Marriage*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LNcolumn@aol.com. For more Lesbian Notions, visit www.planetout.com.

Calling attention to TG benefits

Health benefits for transgenders — or the lack of such coverage — is in the news, and one young man is doing what he can to raise funds for his transition. Christopher Tavelli, a busboy at a downtown restaurant, held a fundraiser February 8 at San Francisco's Club Indochine to call attention to the fact the benefits such as surgery are not covered in most health plans. Tavelli's supportive employers donated the space for the event, entitled "One Big Step," which featured transgender activists Jamison Green, Robert Haaland, Susan Stryker, and the B.A.R.'s own Gwendolyn Ann Smith.



Jane Philomen Gland

Poet Elizabeth Bishop

by Rawley Grau

February 8, 1911 (90 years ago this month): The poet Elizabeth Bishop is born in Worcester, Massachusetts

Today recognized as one of the finest American poets of the 20th century, Elizabeth Bishop perfected a style of writing based on precise and nuanced observation. But behind her carefully crafted poems lay a troubled life, marked by a struggle with alcoholism and a series of turbulent relationships with women.

Tragedy came early for Bishop. Born February 8, 1911, in Worcester, Massachusetts, she never knew her father, who died from kidney disease when she was only 8 months old. Her mother, overcome with grief, went insane and was committed to a hospital when Bishop was 5.

The girl was raised first by her mother's family in rural Nova Scotia, then by relatives in Massachusetts, where she was miserable and suffered severe attacks of eczema and asthma. The eczema eventually cleared, but asthma would torment her throughout her life.

Her father's family was wealthy, so Bishop was able to attend an exclusive girls' boarding school, and then, in 1930, Vassar College. Although her remarkable literary gifts were already evident, her sense of herself as a writer took shape only after she met the poet Marianne Moore. This meeting was arranged by the Vassar librarian, who was a friend of Moore's, and took place at the New York Public Library in March 1934.

Moore became Bishop's friend, mentor, and, perhaps most importantly, a living example of a poet thoroughly committed to her craft. Speaking of her visits to the Brooklyn apartment Moore shared with her mother, Bishop wrote, "I never left ... without feeling happier: uplifted, inspired, determined ... never to try to publish anything until I thought I had done my best with it." With Moore's guidance, the young poet's work began appearing in the leading literary journals.

While there may have been a romantic component in her relationship with the unmarried Moore, who was 47 when they met, it probably remained unacknowledged. But Bishop did have at least two lesbian relationships over the next decade. She also became close friends with the poet Robert Lowell in the late 1940s, but their relationship most likely



Poet Elizabeth Bishop

remained platonic, albeit flirtatious.

Perhaps unable to accept her lesbianism, Bishop fell into a destructive cycle of binge drinking, self-recrimination, and depression, often aggravated by asthma. Nor could she really settle down anywhere: in 1938, she bought a house in Key West with one of her girlfriends, but she continued to divide her time between Florida, New York, and traveling. Although her poetry career took off in the 1940s — her first book was published in 1946 to great acclaim, and she received a number of prestigious fellowships and appointments — Bishop was feeling more and more confused about where her life was going.

At the urging of her doctor, Bishop set off on a world cruise in the fall of 1951 with hopes of clearing her mind, but she got only as far as Brazil. There she fell in love with Lota de Macedo Soares, a wealthy landowner, and decided to stay. Bishop managed to get both her drinking and her asthma under control and, for a few years, seemed to have found a home. Her happiness with Soares found expression in "The Shampoo," one of her few love poems: "The shooting stars in your black hair / in bright formation / are flocking where, / so straight, so soon? / — Come, let me wash it in this big tin basin, / battered and shiny like the moon."

But in the early 1960s, the relationship started to unravel. Soares took a highly stressful political job, and Bishop began drinking again. After several difficult years, Soares finally had a nervous collapse and a few months later, in September 1967, killed herself with a Valium overdose during a trip to New York.

Bishop's personal life was in shambles, but her career was thriving: she had won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1956, and in 1970, her *Complete Poems* won

the National Book Award. That same year, she was offered a position teaching poetry at Harvard University.

There she fell in love with Alice Methfessel, a 26-year-old administrative assistant. Because of Bishop's drinking and general neediness, the relationship was often strained. In 1975, when it looked like it would be over, Bishop wrote what has become her most famous poem, "One Art," which begins, "The art of losing isn't hard to master." But Methfessel, in fact, stayed with Bishop right up to the poet's death, of a cerebral aneurysm, on October 6, 1979, at her home in Boston.

Bishop's self-destructive drinking may well reflect an inner turmoil linked to her homosexuality. Still, one of her last poems hints that Bishop was on the verge of self-acceptance. "Sonnet," which opens with an image of the bubble "caught" in a carpenter's level, "a creature divided," ends with an image of liberation expressed in what is surely an intentional play on words:

"Freed — the broken / thermometer's mercury / running away; / and the rainbow-bird / from the narrow bevel / of the empty mirror, / flying wherever / it feels like, gay!" ▼

Rawley Grau has won four Vice Versa Awards for his writing on gay and lesbian culture. He can be reached at GayNestor@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.planetout.com.

Suggested reading

Bishop, Elizabeth, 1983. *The Complete Poems, 1927-1979*. New York: Farrar Strauss Giroux.

Fountain, Gary, and Peter Brazeau, 1994. *Remembering Elizabeth Bishop: An Oral Biography*. Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press.

Lombardi, Marilyn May, ed., 1993. *Elizabeth Bishop: The Geography of Gender*. Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia.

Millier, Brett C., 1993. *Elizabeth Bishop: Life and the Memory of It*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

and the Republicans will stop hounding Clinton. Likely, it will never happen as long as **Chris Matthews** of MSNBC and his Republican allies have Bill and Hillary to kick around.

While Governor Davis fights to find an answer to the state's energy crisis he has increasingly come under attack from California Republicans. Maybe it is criticism well founded, but hey, wasn't it Davis's GOP predecessor, **Pete Wilson**, who pushed the state into deregulation while he was governor? Meanwhile, while Davis con-

tinues to take the arrows, San Francisco state Senator **John Burton** is getting high marks for his leadership efforts in the current electricity crisis. Incidentally, when you get your next electricity bill you might want to know that while this energy problem was slowly building up, executives at both PG&E and Southern California Edison were doing all right for themselves. I understand that Southern California Edison's CEO, **John Bryson**, earned \$999,000 in salary plus a bonus of \$1,260,000 in 1999 while **Robert Glen**, PG&E's CEO, reportedly picked up a nifty \$2,000,000 in salary and bonuses in the same year.

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• February 28 - Breaking Up Like A Growl
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• March 7 - Gay Divorce
Coping with changes. Grieving and attaining closure. When and how to seek help.

• March 14 - Creating the "Ex" relationship
Can you become "friends"? When you should never see him again.

• March 21 - Being Boyfriend-less
How to avoid rebounding and thrive in your solitude.

• March 28 - Life Lessons
Discovering the lessons of your ex-relationships.

• April 4 - Learning to Love Again.
The characteristics of happy, fulfilling gay relationships. How you can make it happen!

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Program created and facilitated by Neil Kaminsky, LCSW, psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco and author of the popular book *When It's Time To Leave Your Lover - A Guide For Gay Men* (Haworth Press - www.haworthpressinc.com). For more information, contact Neil Kaminsky at 415-677-7980 or email at nkaminsky@men.com

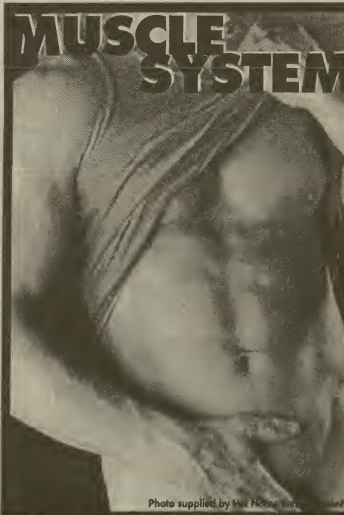


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No regrets

by Jane Warner

400 block of Sanchez, February 5, 2 p.m.: A man who broke up with his boyfriend of two years made arrangements with him to pick up his belongings. Once inside his ex's apartment, the ex decided to leave while the man retrieved his things so the two wouldn't argue. About three hours later, the man returned home, finding his apartment ransacked. The refrigerator's glass shelves were broken and maple syrup dripped all over the interior contents. A caustic chemical fumigated his pillows and bedspread. Garbage from the kitchen was strewn about the apartment. A message written in ink on the bedroom wall read, "Thanks for your love."

Responding police took photographs of the damaged residence, filed a report, and arranged for an emergency protective order against his ex-boyfriend. Meanwhile, the man changed the locks on his doors.

Mellowed out

Dolores Park, February 6, 11:25 a.m.: While walking his dog in the park, a man was approached by another man pushing a bicycle who asked him for marijuana. The man told him he didn't have any

and asked him to leave him alone. Angry, the suspect mimicked the man's speech, kicked at his dog, and threw his bicycle at him. The two exchanged blows and fell to the ground, wrestling in the grass. After a brief struggle, the victim was able to break away and call police. Responding officers found the suspect riding his bike at 18th and Guerrero, and they arrested him without incident. The suspect admitted going to the park to look for weed, but denied starting the fight. The suspect claimed he was only defending himself from the victim's aggressive dog, a Yorkshire terrier, who was "snapping at my ankles." The 30-year-old man was cited for battery and released at the scene.

Your tax dollars

16th and Guerrero, February 8, 11 p.m.: A police cruiser passing the corner of 16th and Guerrero observed a man standing in the roadway. The cruiser slowed and the officer rolled down his window, telling the man to get on the sidewalk. The man ignored the officer's command and stayed in the roadway. The officer again told the man to get on the sidewalk. The man turned and slowly walked away, muttering, "Get a real job." The officer exited his patrol car and placed the man under arrest. When asked why he didn't comply

with the officer's commands, the man replied, "I thought you were a taxi."

Flee control

300 block of Noe, February 7, 6:40 p.m.: While on routine patrol, officers observed a blue GMC pickup exit the parking garage of Gold's Gym at a high rate of speed. The officer made a traffic stop and asked the driver for her license, which she didn't have. When the officer told her she would be cited and her truck would be towed, the driver screamed, "I'm not getting out of my fucking truck. You can't take it, it's all I have." The woman slammed her fist against the inside of the windshield, shattering it. She then tightened her grip on the steering wheel. The officer called for backup and four other officers responded to the scene. Two officers tried to pull the woman's hands off the wheel while the others tried to restrain her from kicking. Screaming profanities, the driver was finally taken from the truck and placed in handcuffs. The 29-year-old woman was taken to county jail where she was cited for exhibition of speed, driving without a license, and resisting arrest. Her truck was towed for safekeeping. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

Gay man executed in Missouri

by Liz Highleyman

Shortly after midnight last Wednesday, February 7, Stanley Dewaine Lingar, a mentally impaired gay man, was executed by lethal injection in Missouri. The execution came after the U.S. Supreme Court denied Lingar's final appeal on February 7, and Missouri Governor Bob Holden denied Lingar's request for clemency later the same day. It was the culmination of a case that has garnered considerable attention from gay activists and others who oppose the death penalty.

In 1986, Lingar was convicted of killing Thomas Allen, a 16-year-old Missouri youth; Lingar was 21 at the time of the crime. Allen was driving home from his girlfriend's house near the town of Doniphan, Missouri on January 6, 1985 when he ran out of gas. Lingar and David Smith, who had both consumed large amounts of alcohol, picked up Allen along the side of the road. Instead of driving him to

a service station as they had promised, they drove to nearby Lingo Lake. Smith testified that the pair ordered Allen to undress and masturbate. Once Allen was out of the car, Lingar beat him with a tire iron, shot him, and ran over him twice with a car; the two men then dumped Allen's body in a river.

In exchange for Smith's testimony against Lingar during the first phase of the trial, he was allowed to plead guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 10 years in prison, of which he served six. Lingar had stated that he was too drunk to remember anything about the events the night of the murder.

Opponents of Lingar's execution claimed that Lingar suffered from various mental disorders and was borderline developmentally disabled with an IQ of 80, a fact that Lingar's original attorney neglected to bring up. They also claimed that Lingar was convicted based solely on the testimony of Smith, which was suspect given the leniency he received in exchange for his cooperation.

But the most disturbing charge was that the prosecution appealed to the jury's homophobia in an attempt to get a more severe punishment for Lingar. During the penalty phase of the trial, when asked to present additional information to help the jury decide on an appropriate punishment, the prosecution called on Smith to testify that he and Lingar had been lovers for three years. The prosecution argued that Lingar's sexual orientation was relevant to the motive for the murder, speculating that Lingar may have killed Allen to "cover up" his homosexuality. According to a statement from Amnesty International, "It appears as though the prosecu-

tor's sole intention was to stir up homophobia among the jurors, who were drawn from a conservative and rural area of southeastern Missouri." According to Kent Gipsen, Lingar's attorney during the appeals process, "His sexual orientation offended the jury—they decided that they should kill him because he was a deviant."

Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon maintained that it was "the brutality of the crime, not the sexual orientation of the killer" that led to Lingar's death sentence.

Lingar's case had been undergoing appeals for 15 years. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to uphold his conviction. The appeals court determined that the introduction of evidence about Lingar's sexual orientation was indeed unconstitutional, but that it did not affect the outcome of the trial. However, the dissenting judge decried the fact that the jury was not informed of Lingar's mental impairment, stating that there was "no reasonable probability that a jury advised of these circumstances would have imposed the death sentence on this mentally retarded and mentally disturbed young man."

The effort to halt Lingar's execution received support from Amnesty International, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, and the New York-based gay activist group Queer Watch, all of which oppose the death penalty. According to Bill Dobbs of Queer Watch, "There is concern that he got the death penalty because he is gay ... I think the country has gotten more aware of how race and class prejudice can work its way into the judicial system. This kind of prejudice—gay prejudice—can work its way into courts as well." ▼

New HMI course catalog out now

by Liz Highleyman

For the 14th consecutive semester, the Harvey Milk Institute has released its new catalog of classes and events. The latest course listing features a wide variety of educational and cultural choices for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities, with over 100 workshops, classes, and special events.

Most classes will be held from March through May at locations around the Castro.

HMI's spring 2000 offering are – as always – exceedingly diverse, encompassing arts, cultural studies, history, travel, sex, relationships, and much more. Several well-known community activists and educators are included in this semester's roster of instructors, including Patrick and Matt Califia Rice ("Queer Parenting: Surviving the First Year"), former city Supervisor Leslie Katz ("The Politics of Power: City Hall and the Queer Community"), Eliyahou Farajaje and Frank Strona ("Negative by

Choice, Not by Chance"), Susan Stryker ("Introduction to San Francisco Queer History"), and comedian Karen Ripley ("The Magic of Improvisation").

Other intriguing offerings include the all-too-timely

"Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Constitution: Gender Sexuality and the Supreme Court," "Graphic Agitation," a primer on activist art; "Middle Eastern Queer Experience;" "Racism in Queer Communities: What Can White People Do?;" and "Queer Harlem and the Lavender Blues."

Classes and events related to gender issues are in ample supply this semester. One fun choice is "Uncle Lynce's Skool for Boys," presented by Tribe 8 member Lynn Breedlove, a class that aims to teach baby dykes and butches how to treat a lady. According to Breedlove, "I'm the 21st century

queer Miss Manners for dykes. Students will learn to be study and to be the very best, so they can give their girl what she deserves."

The creatively inclined can choose among classes on drawing, jewelry making, sewing, video production, poetry, and more. This year's offerings include many classes on sexual technique, with a broader selection of courses for women (including a four-part BDSM series),

to match the already extensive erotic offerings for men.

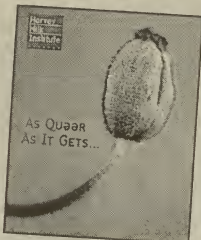
As it has for the past few semesters, HMI will offer free classes for youth aged 23 and under. New this year is another set of free classes for youth ages 11-18, co-sponsored by the Youth Gender Project. HMI and the YGP will again co-produce the now-annual GenderBlast conference for "trans, intersex, genderqueer, and gender-questioning youth and

young adults, along with their friends and allies of all ages." GenderBlast III will take place on April 28.

To kick off the new season, HMI will hold its annual fundraising event on February 28. The "Spring Fling" will feature an eclectic mix of performers, including Lisi DeHaas, Gina Gold, Maureen Brownsey, and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Immediately following the Spring Fling, Sister Spit presents the After Bash, a spoken-word benefit for HMI. Both events will take place

at the San Francisco Women's Building. HMI is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

The new HMI catalog is available at many Bay Area venues, including A Different Light Bookstore, or may be requested by calling (415) 552-7200 or sending e-mail to harvmilk@aol.com. Course offerings and enrollment information are available on HMI's Web site at www.harvmilk.org. Students can register online or by e-mail, phone, fax, or mail. ▼



FTM True Spirit conference this weekend

by Liz Highleyman

This weekend, February 16-19, the fifth annual True Spirit conference, sponsored by American Boyz, will take place in Washington, D.C. The event is for all female-to-male (FTM) transgendered people and others who were "labeled female at birth but who feel that this is not an accurate or complete description of who they are," as well as their significant others, friends, families, and allies.

The gathering will include workshops and panel presentations on topics such as health and wellness, identities, legal and political issues, activism, relationships, sexuality, and spirituality. The event's keynote speakers will be Eli Clare, gender-queer activist and author of *Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation*; Debra Kolodney, a faith and social justice activist and author of *Blessed Bi Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith*; and Kit Rachlin, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, researcher,

and advocate who has worked with the transgender community for over 15 years.

The conference will also feature author readings, art exhibits, a film festival, entertainment, caucuses, and 12-step meetings.

Because FTMs often find it difficult to receive adequate and sensitive health care, the conference will include opportunities for medical screenings including breast exams, blood pressure checks (which are particularly important for persons taking hormones), and consultations with surgeons who provide procedures related to sex reassignment.

American Boyz provides education and support to the community that includes – but is not limited to – FTMs, butches, transmen, gender outlaws, transsexuals, drag kings, new men, boychicks, she-bears, transfigs, tomboys, two-spirits, tranny boys, intersexuals, hermaphrodites, and others. The group offers social events, publications, online resources, and local meetings in ad-

dition to its annual conference. ▼

The True Spirit conference will take place at the Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. For more information, see the Web site at www.true-spirit.org.



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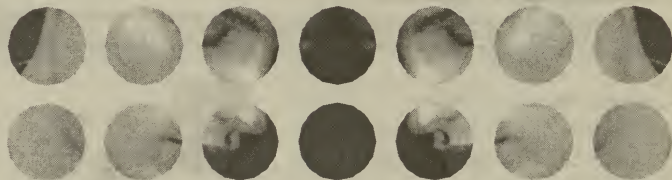
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Gay Life, promoting Gay men's sexual health and emotional well-being. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Register now for the SFAF advocacy conference next month

by Dennis Conkin

Space is limited and registration is required by Friday, February 23 for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's HIV advocacy conference on Saturday, March 3 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. The event is sponsored by the SFAF Public Policy Department's grassroots community organizing program, the HIV Advocacy Network.

The daylong conference, "Every Voice Counts: Mobilizing Change in Uncertain Times," will focus on the future of HIV/AIDS advocacy in California and nationally in the wake of the Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization, healthcare reform, non-name based HIV reporting, global HIV/AIDS patterns, and expanded needle exchange. It also will include a media advocacy workshop.

HAN organizes HIV service providers, AIDS advocates, and people in Northern California living with HIV/AIDS. The group has more than 1,000 members ranging from the Oregon border to Bakersfield, according to a SFAF release.

The conference will be at the SFAF offices at 995 Market Street, at 6th. To register online, go to www.sfaf.org/policy/han_conference.html. To register by phone contact the foundation (415) 487-3080. ▼

All Gay Life programs are free of charge. Register in advance, space is limited. For more information and reservations call 415.788.LIFE or visit www.gaylife.org.

Interrupting HIV therapy: Hope or hype?

by Bob Roehr

The great debate raging within the practice of HIV medicine is over what one should hope to accomplish by interrupting highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). The particular goal will shape the duration of an interruption and the measure used to decide when to restart therapy.

Supporters of alternative approaches offered data from very small groups of patients to bolster their positions at the eighth annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections held February 4-8 in Chicago.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, laid out three reasons why people are considering structured interruptions of therapy in treating HIV.

One is the hope that virus which has mutated resistance to drugs will be less fit when those drugs are removed. Given adequate time, the mutant virus may fade away and the original wild type virus will reestablish itself. Wild type virus would be more vulnerable to the drugs, though it seems likely that given enough time, drug-resistant mutants will reemerge.

Another approach known as "auto-immunization" theorizes that low levels of HIV do not adequately stimulate the immune system to suppress the virus. Removing therapy and allowing the viral load to grow may stimulate an im-



Dr. Anthony Fauci

mune response. Then therapy is restarted. Repeating this cycle may result in better control of the virus by T-cells and antibodies and allow for greater periods of time off of all therapy.

SIT

Fauci supports a third approach. Given the limitations of current drugs to suppress HIV and the toxicities associated with those drugs, his goal is simply "to get people off therapy for a well-defined period of time." He calls it structured interruption of therapy (SIT) and he has tried a couple of variations.

For patients on HAART, the most successful cycle has been one of seven days off therapy and seven days back on. A number of studies have shown that with an undetectable viral load and the exponential growth of the virus, it

takes more than a week for it to multiply enough to reach detectable levels.

Fauci said that on the seven-day cycle, "the virus does not rebound, there is no negative impact on the immune system, and we have not seen the emergence of any resistance." He cautioned that only 10 patients were involved, and none have been on this cycle for more than 44 weeks. "But it does tell you that it is at least feasible to pursue that," he said.

He added that most patients really want a break from the therapy. "It's a big deal to patients if you don't have to take drugs 50 percent of the time."

Another caveat is that these interruptions have only been tried with drugs that have a short half-life, so as not to promote drug mutation resistance as the blood levels trail off. Fauci's NIH team does not interrupt use of Sustiva (efavirenz), or abacavir, and on regimens that



Bruce Walker

help from drugs.

Four patients were able to control the virus at below 400 copies on the first interruption. The other 10 patients required another cycle or two on and off therapy

York, had much less success with strategic interruptions. Patients who started therapy during chronic infection generally had inconsistent control of the virus when they went off therapy, and repeated cycles on and off drugs did not necessarily generate better immune control of the virus.

However, some patients were able to go off therapy for weeks or months at a time, sometimes with significant control of viral replication. They were able to restart therapy and attain the same level of viral suppression that they had prior to their last interruption.

Shaping a paradigm

No one has yet put together a grand strategy for staging interruptions. Part of the equation must be a patient's CD4 count, as T-cells will start to be destroyed soon after therapy is stopped and the virus rebounds. The higher the count above the warning line of 200 T-cells, the more flexibility a patient has to take a chance and still rebuild whatever T-cells are lost during an interruption.

Five to 15 percent of patients "will control viremia when you stop therapy," without any further cycling of interruptions, said Fauci. They are, generally but perhaps not exclusively, patients who started therapy during acute infection.

So perhaps it makes sense to begin a first interruption under Walker's guidelines of letting HIV rebound to see the viral set point where the immune system controls replication. His criteria for restarting is a single viral load above 50,000 copies, or greater than 5,000 copies for three consecutive weeks, numbers that he admits are arbitrary.

Two or three cycles should give an indication of whether the immune system is learning to better control the viremia it is exposed to. Most patients will learn that they will not be able to go an extended period of time without therapy, but the only way to learn those limits is to try.

Patients who have developed drug-resistant virus might want to try an extended interruption of six months to see if the mutant will revert to an easier to treat wild type variation of HIV. Unfortunately, most patients with resistant virus have had relatively low CD4 counts and cannot afford to spend that much time off therapy without severely depleting their T-cells. Some experienced patients have had success building up those counts with IL-2 therapy and then were able to take an extended interruption.

Finally, it appears that Fauci's seven-day cycle off and on therapy is safe and well tolerated by patients with low or undetectable viral loads. It is unclear whether patients with advanced disease

However, some patients were able to go off therapy for weeks or months at a time, sometimes with significant control of viral replication.

use low dose ritonavir to enhance retention of protease inhibitors, they stop the ritonavir a day before the other drugs.

He said, "The adherence problem is no worse and perhaps better than with people who are on continuous therapy." Fauci expects that there will be a decline in lipid and other metabolic side effects simply because total exposure to drug is less. It will take a longer time to see any physical changes in patients, however, and his current study does not have a large enough number of patients to produce solid answers.

Auto-immunization

Bruce Walker's group at Massachusetts General Hospital presented data on 14 patients who began therapy during acute infection. That is the very brief window of about 90 days between exposure to HIV and seroconversion, the development of antibodies that show up on the standard Elisa screening test for HIV.

They were on HAART for at least a year with undetectable viral load before trying a structured interruption to stimulate an immune response. When they stopped taking their drugs, all of the patients showed a dramatic increase in viral load, most passing 50,000 copies. But once they were exposed to enough virus, the immune system kicked in, lowering and controlling the virus with no

and all could control the virus at a viral load of a few thousand copies or less after four cycles. Some of these patients continue to control viral replication after more than a year off of drugs.

Walker performed a number of sophisticated tests and found that "early treatment prevented or impaired viral diversification." The immune system was better able to contain a narrow range of virus. By contrast, patients with chronic infection had a more diverse pool of virus, a more diverse immune response, and were less able to control the infection.

Marty Markowitz, a leading researcher at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New



Researcher Marty Markowitz

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Bear weekend

◀ page 1

fair will be open between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and you can meet all the contestants in the Whitcomb Ballroom of the host hotel between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. A beer/soda benefit follows at the Eagle from 3 to 6 p.m. There are a lot of private parties all over the city but it is expected most of the action will take place at the Lone Star Saloon.

This Sunday, February 18, the vendor fair continues and Club Day will take place in the Whit-

comb Ballroom between noon and 4 p.m.

The International Mr. Bear competition takes place Sunday at the San Francisco Gift Center (888 Brannan Street) beginning at 7:30 p.m. with a limited number of advance tickets available. Admission is \$20 and tickets are available at the Bear Store (357 9th Street) and at Mr. S Leather (310 7th Street). Additional tickets will be sold beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, in the Bears of San Francisco store at the host hotel. No tickets will be sold at the door the night of the contest.

The final day of the event,

Monday, February 19, includes an auction and continental breakfast taking place in the host hotel from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many items will be auctioned off and can be previewed all weekend in the B0SF store at the hotel.

Always a community fundraiser, International Bear Rendezvous has pledged that this year's weekend event will benefit Dolores Street Community Services, Home Care Companions, and the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force. For more information, call (415) 541-5000 or log on to www.bosf.org. Inquiries may be emailed to info@bosf.org. ▼

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- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
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- The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose
- Low risk of fat wasting, tingling or burning in the hands and feet, or problems with the pancreas

¹Scott-Levin, Source Prescription Audit (retail pharmacies), January to June 2000.

²Roche Amplicor HIV-1 MONITOR[®] Test.

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Glaxo Wellcome
HIV Division

Please see Brief Summary for COMBIVIR on the adjacent page.

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CBV436RD

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BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY. LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING LAMIVUDINE, ZIDOVUDINE, AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR In combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

Description of Clinical Studies: COMBIVIR: There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NU30307 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg i.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy (zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)) to the addition of EPVIR or EPVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of Patients (%) With At Least 1 HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPVIR plus a NRTI ^a plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

^aAn investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including lamivudine, zidovudine, and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

Myopathy: Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine, and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

PRECAUTIONS: **Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection:** In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

Information for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Concomitant administration of zalcitabine, interferon-α, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: **Carcinogenicity:**

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at 3 dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, 7 late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (5 nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, 1 squamous cell papilloma, and 1 squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, 2 late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately 3 times (mice) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately 3 times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Mutagenicity: **Lamivudine:** Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeated doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

Impairment of Fertility: **Lamivudine:** In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Reference: 1. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus didanosine in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med*. 1997;337:725-733.

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryofetality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryofetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4283.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers subsection of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed not to breastfeed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

Geriatric Use: Clinical studies of COMBIVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. COMBIVIR is not recommended for patients with impaired renal function (i.e., creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min; see PRECAUTIONS: Patients with Impaired Renal Function and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

ADVERSE REACTIONS: **Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations:** In 4 randomized, controlled trials of EPVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials With EPVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event	EPVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
Skin	
Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in 3 of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPVIR in controlled clinical trials. Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials of EPVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm ³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm ³)	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Observed During Clinical Practice: In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to EPVIR and/or RETROVIR.

Endocrine and Metabolic: Hyperglycemia.

General: Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.

Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas: Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis.

Musculoskeletal: Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.

Nervous: Seizures.

Skin: Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

OVERDOSAGE: **COMBIVIR:** There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and 1 report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, CZZV, is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is 1 tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min) or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

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Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from BioChem Pharma Inc.
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US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; 4,837,208; 5,859,021 and 5,905,082

October 2000/RL-874

Homophobia, HIV in the black community

A conversation with Phill Wilson

by Bob Roehr

By definition, to be gay is to be white within the mindset of many African Americans, according to one academic scholar. "So what happens for black gay men, not only do you deal with the stigma of sexual orientation, you deal with the betrayal of race," said Phill Wilson, director of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute at the University of Southern California.

The sense is that "being gay is not a black thing. Somehow by expressing your sexuality, you are denying your blackness."

"We have never gotten to the point of having an explicit discussion around stigma, homosexuality, and AIDS in the black and

Latino communities," said Wilson. "Part of what is driving these men and their relationships with women is the need to be accepted in our community. And to, quite frankly, create plausible deniability around their sexuality."

Wilson said that blacks are no more or less homophobic than are whites but they do have "a whole set of issues around shame. We don't want outsiders to know that there are drug users, and homosexuals, anything that might be perceived to be a prejudice."

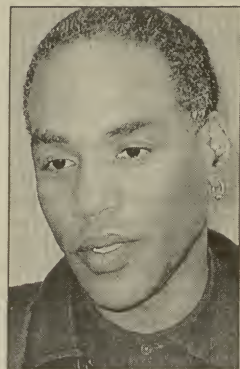
"You have the urban myth that all of the members of the choir and the choir director are gay. Well, to some extent that myth exists because there is some truth to it. These people often are honored within the church environment, people know they are gay, but they

don't talk about it.

"And if an outsider were to come in and attack that person, they would rally behind that person inside the church. He is a part of us, and an outsider cannot come in and do that. If that person were to explicitly say that it is so, then the church would come back and force him out.

"So a lot of the stigma really is about an understanding that there is a conspiracy of silence. If I am silent, then I maintain the support of my community. And so this notion of blacks being more homophobic than whites doesn't come from the reality of homophobia but comes from the intensity of the experience.

"If I am black and gay, I believe or know that I am dependent upon my black community for



Phill Wilson

sanctuary on the race question. So I am not willing to do anything to jeopardize that sanctuary. When I disclose that I'm gay and lose that

sanctuary, it has a more devastating impact on my life."

Wilson said that the traditional AIDS organizations often do not have much of a history of providing services for black gay men. "And when you look at minority initiative programs funded by the CDC, rarely do they explicitly address gay men of color in ways that directly deal with issues of sexual orientation."

He believes that it is legitimate for organizations like the CDC to support building infrastructure to "create a cultural environment for gay and bisexual men who are in the closet, to take more ownership within their community. We have a population that we know is at risk. We need to strengthen organizations so that we have the wherewithal to do this work." ▼

The HIV prevention conundrum

by Bob Roehr

Newspaper headlines scream of increasingly risky sexual behavior among gay men and very high rates of HIV infection among young gay black men. They are based upon studies funded or conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reading those reports, one gets the impression that HIV is again exploding across America.

Yet at the same time, the CDC estimates 40,000 new infections of HIV a year — the same number it has used since 1992. What is happening here?

At the eighth annual Retrovirus conference in Chicago last week, the CDC's Robert Janssen expressed "particular concern" with reports of increased risk behavior by HIV-positive men who have sex with men and with reports of increases in sexually transmitted diseases among gay men in Seattle and San Francisco. STDs traditionally have been used as a surrogate or marker for HIV transmissions.

Boston activist David Scondras asked if there was any evidence that there was increased transmission of HIV in the last few years. Janssen restated the evidence of increases in risky behavior and in the number of STDs but concluded, "At this point we do not have data on HIV incidence that demonstrates an increase, but we are concerned."

Two facts may explain why STDs may no longer be a good marker for new HIV transmissions. First, HIV is a lifetime infection where a new infection is counted only once. A person can have STDs such as gonorrhea or syphilis numerous times in their life or even within the same year.

Second, people who are HIV-positive may be having unsafe sex primarily with other people who are already infected with the virus. This could result in new STD transmissions but no new HIV transmission. Janssen himself mentioned data that supported this conclusion. In the Seattle "outbreak" of syphilis, 75 percent of the cases were in HIV-positive men who seemed to be passing it among themselves.

Viral loads

Janssen pointed to new data from Amsterdam showing that

HIV-positive men had "an increase in unprotected sex with casual partners after their viral loads became undetectable and their CD4 counts increased" while on therapy.

"While lower viral load in the plasma is associated with lower risk of transmission, cell-associated virus is still found in the semen and it is not well understood how infectious that is," though animal models suggest it is much less infectious, he said.

"The focus on HAART and the way it affects transmissibility is important but somewhat academic. What is really important is to focus on behavior. At this point we don't know the answer about whether HAART reduces infectiousness in sexual transmission. There is no question that it does in perinatal situations, but it is much less clear in sexual and injection drug use situations."

Janssen tried to downplay a study by Johns Hopkins University researchers in Uganda, funded in part by the CDC, showing that there were no new infections of HIV among heterosexual couples if the viral load was under 1,500 copies. He seems to believe that semen and transmission vary between continents and acts until proven otherwise.

What about the sky-high rate of viremia during acute infection, those first few weeks after exposure to HIV where one group of patients had an average viral load of 12 million? Some researchers have speculated that this is a major factor in the continued spread of HIV in the U.S.

Janssen said the only data comes from the Options Project in San Francisco, where about 40 percent of the 17 examples were linked to the acute infection of a partner.

SAFE

The CDC is launching the first prevention program targeted to those who are infected with HIV. Evidence shows that those who know their HIV status are more likely to change their behavior and adapt less risky practices in order to protect their sexual partners.

SAFE — Serostatus Approach to Fighting the Epidemic — has two principle goals. "The first is to increase the proportion of HIV-infected people in the United States who know they are infected, from the current estimated 70 percent

to 95 percent by the end of 2005," said Janssen. The second is to link 80 percent of those people to appropriate services.

SAFE will be launched later this year with a "Know Now" media campaign in Detroit, New Orleans, Houston, Miami, and Jackson, Mississippi. If fully implemented, the program will cost \$300 million of federal and local funds. The CDC currently has

\$100 million and is "looking for additional public funds."

But SAFE is based upon the standard antibody test to identify HIV. And antibodies become detectable only at seroconversion, at the end of acute infection, about 90 days or so after exposure. The program will do little to address the issue of HIV transmission during acute infection when viral load is in the millions. ▼



CDC's Robert Janssen

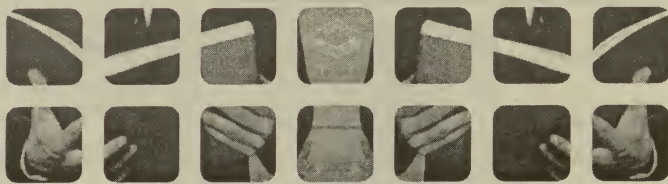


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AIDS office two-step, Texas style

by Bob Roehr

The Bush administration did a quick little Texas two-step around the issue of AIDS. Press reports first had the office of "AIDS czar" being abolished, but a few hours later the White House press office clarified its position and said that was not the case.

In a front page article on February 7, *USA Today* screamed that Bush was going to eliminate offices on AIDS and race relations created by President Clinton. Their source was an interview with White House chief of staff Andrew Card. He said, "The presumption that a White House bureaucracy looks the same from administration to administration is

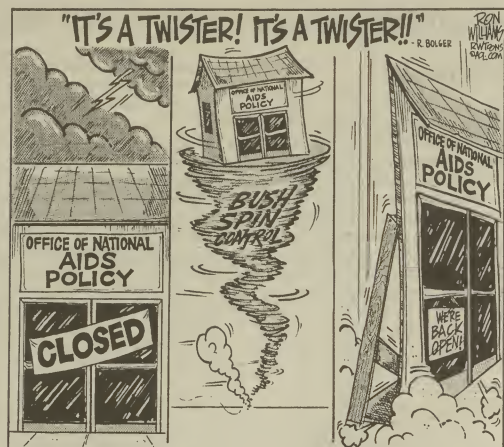
a myth."

The ink was not yet dry on that edition of the newspaper when the press office issued a clarification. Card "made a mistake," said spokesman Ari Fleischer, the functions of both offices would be maintained, though the administrative structures will change.

Fleischer said they anticipate that both a member of the Domestic Policy Council and an AIDS expert from the Department of Health and Human Services, on loan to the White House, will handle HIV. The Clinton administration also staffed HIV activities with personnel on loan from other government agencies as a way to make the White House staff and budget appear smaller.

At the Retroviral conference in Chicago, Anthony Fauci was "very surprised" to read the headline that morning. The principal leader of AIDS research at the National Institutes of Health said that in discussions with members of the transition office and later the domestic policy office, they had been "eager to do the right things."

Fauci thought that "integrating [HIV] into the fundamental domestic policy issues might turn out to be a positive thing, rather



Ren Williams

than have it off isolated." He added, "certainly the funding will be fine."

AIDS organizations breathed a tentative sigh of relief, awaiting appointment of key people who will work on HIV issues. The National Minority AIDS Council said the Office of National AIDS Policy "provides an important vehicle for close collaboration with

national and international AIDS organizations."

"It's important that Bush's inner circle of advisers deal with this issue on a daily basis," said Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign. She sees the office as important to coordinate activities that involve both domestic and international issues. ▼

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LYRIC

◀ page 1

bias Meeting for Youth (OHMY), taking place next Saturday, February 24, hopes to address many of these issues. Sponsored by Laverder Youth Recreation and Information Center, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, and the San Francisco Unified School District, the conference aims to empower youth and their allies with tools to face a world that remains full of prejudice, fear, and danger.

At LYRIC, issues of homophobia are a daily struggle, from the younger participants dealing with coming out, to the veterans who concentrate on political activism.

"A surprising number of our youth are activists," said Brian Cheu, executive director of LYRIC. "Most of them don't have the cynicism of the older activists, and they also tend to fight for a broader platform of progressive issues that confront things like racism and other forms of oppression."

Many LYRIC members, for instance, were more involved last year in the fight against the juvenile crime initiative Proposition 21 than they were with the anti-gay marriage initiative Proposition 22.

"They're more inclusive than activists of the past," said Cheu. "They provide a great model for LGBT politics to follow."

But to get to a place where they're comfortable enough to fight for their rights, queer youth must first learn to accept themselves. Despite all the advances, it isn't easy.

Prejudice and assumptions

Many of the biases faced by queer youth actually come from within the LGBT community itself, as adults who see improved visibility often mistake that for a safe environment.

"Some people think there are more services for queer youth than there really are," explained Cheu. "Others think the school system is more accepting than it really is. But while there may be more acceptance overall, it doesn't mean any individual's experience is any better. It just takes one bully, one teacher, one family member, to have a negative impact."

And when homophobia is subtle, or packaged in a family's message of love and concern, it can have an even greater impact, according to Myk, 17, and Deanna, 15, both residents of San Francisco.

"Most adults have no problem with the subject," began Deanna.

"They just don't want their own kids to be that way," finished Myk.

The pair of friends, who regularly attend LYRIC programs after school, say they must hide or downplay their sexual orientation in order to survive at home.

"Here's my mom: we're walking through the Castro together and she sees two gay guys hugging, and she thinks it's kind of nice. But when it comes to me, she tells me it's against the Bible," said Myk, who recently came out to his family. "My life is hell. She's always listening in on my phone calls, and she can't even look at me. She has started to follow me after school, so I have to change where I walk and hide along the way because I don't want her to know I'm coming here."

Deanna, who is not yet out to her family, receives much of the same treatment.

"My mom kind of suspects it. She doesn't dislike it but doesn't

understand it. She says she would still love me," said Deanna. "My older brother says the word, 'fag' all the time. We were watching MTV and he said, 'If I ever met a gay guy I would just kill him.' My step dad thinks I'm going through an identity crisis. When I got my chin pierced he got hecka mad and said, 'That's for dykes.'"

Both teens have older gay adults in their lives but cannot relate to them.

One of Deanna's school teachers is a lesbian and is very accepting, but wears piercings and dyes her hair in a manner that seems "kind of weird on an adult."

One of Myk's uncles is a drag queen, but "it's hard for me to be open to him. I'm still scared of that kind of behavior. I know better than that, but he's different from everyone else in the family."

The two say that remaining close with their families is one of their top priorities, and that making connections with other queers is one way they are learning how to do that.

"We're just normal people," is what Deanna would like adults to know. "We're just trying to live our own lives."

"We're different," is Myk's message to his elders. "We're not normal in this world." ▼

The upcoming OHMY meeting next Saturday is free of charge and runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mission High School, 3750 18th Street. Adult allies and teachers are welcome; the meeting will focus on strategies for middle and high school students. More information is available by e-mailing ohmy@gsanetwork.org or calling (415) 703-6150, ext. 39. A registration form and schedule for the meeting is available at www.lyric.org/ohmy. A dance for queer youth will follow at LYRIC, 100 Collingwood Street, from 7-11 p.m. Public transportation is Muni's J-Church or K, L, or M lines to the Church Street station or BART to the 16th Street station.

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Gay Tempe mayor in recall fight

by Dennis Conkin

The gay mayor of Tempe, Arizona, is the subject of an anti-gay recall effort replete with hate mail and anonymous death threats.

Neil Giuliano, who was re-elected to the post last year – his fourth term – will face a special recall election in September if at least 3,982 of the 4,606 signatures on the petition to force a vote are valid at the end of March. The signatures were recently submitted to the Tempe City Clerk's office.

The recall drive surfaced after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that the Boy Scouts of America could discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. In light of the decision, the Arizona city began to consider changing the way it coordinated its annual giving campaign for city workers.

Under a proposed plan, workers would have been allowed to donate only to groups that did not practice sexual orientation discrimination – but were free to donate on their own to groups which did.

The proposal created a firestorm of controversy which led to the recall drive.

A.J. LaFaro, the leader of the Tempe recall effort, has denied that the recall is about the mayor's sexual orientation, but is instead about Giuliano's "trying to push his agenda down our throats."

La Faro made the comments in a January issue of *East Valley Tribune*, a Tempe-area newspaper.

The Lesbian and Gay Victory Fund, which has endorsed Giuliano and is raising awareness of the recall through a public information campaign, said that La Faro's comments show his true colors.

"Taken all together, the anti-gay rhetoric which gave birth to the recall drive, the coded language referring to a so-called agenda, the fact that every other issue the recall is purportedly

about has already been debated in previous elections, the fact that on those other issues there is no distinction between the position of the mayor and that of his fellow council members who are not being recalled – it all adds to a political attack the people of Tempe would not have to endure if it were not for anti-gay prejudice," Brian Bond, the Victory Fund's executive director, said in a press statement.

Giuliano has received e-mail saying he should be "taken out," as well as other harassing mail, including pieces from people calling themselves homophobes and gay-bashers.

Giuliano, a Republican, was elected to his fourth term in March 2000 with 70 percent of voters choosing him for the post.

Tempe is the fifth largest city in Arizona and has nearly 160,000 residents. ▼



Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano

Ready for the Big One? NERT training starts soon

by Dennis Conkin

Nervous about what to do during an earthquake and how to proceed in the aftermath of a devastating temblor? Is your wrist strong enough to turn the wrench on the gas main? What and where is the gas main? What to do if a fire breaks out in the sex club or the gym?

Get real, get ready, and get prepared with practical training and solutions to these and other emergency preparedness and response

needs, suggests the San Francisco Fire Department.

The Fire Department's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team Training – a series of six Tuesday evening sessions – begins on February 27 at Davies Medical Center at Castro and Duboce streets.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the two and a half hour classes cover topics ranging from earthquake history and probability in San Francisco and how to prepare yourself and your home for the Big One, how to shut off utilities, use a fire

extinguisher, and other useful tips.

And, according to local architect Scott Callaway, the classes also teach you how to help your neighbors when disaster strikes.

"All neighborhoods have an emergency response training team," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Callaway said the NERT training includes topics of disaster medicine, triage, how to do damage assessment of property, conduct light search and rescue for disaster victims, and perform other emergency response maneuvers.

Classes also include information about citywide disaster plans, team organization and management – as well as hands-on training in lifting, interior search, and other topics.

"The classes are free and there are no tests," Callaway said.

The NERT training will be held in the North Tower of Davies Medical Center. For more information and to enroll call (415) 558-3459 or contact Lieutenant Patricia Yuen at (415) 558-3456. The Web site is www.nertnews.com. ▼

Black leadership forum hosts conference in Oakland

by Cynthia Laird

February 15, in Oakland.

Entitled "A Dialog for Community Unity," the conference will provide discussion and fellowship, with conference plenary sessions and workshops on community building, personal development, and health matters. Fur-

ther information was not available at press time.

The conference takes place at the Oakland Marriott, 1001 Broadway. Registration is \$175; for more information, call (510) 302-0930 or e-mail natblkforum@aol.com. ▼

HIV TREATMENT UPDATE

A REPORT-BACK ON THE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON RETROVIRUSES AND OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

PROGRAM

- Chair: Marcus Conant, MD
- HIV Immunology: Mark Dybul, MD
- Marijuana and HIV Infection: Donald Abrams, MD
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Nominations sought for Courage Awards

by Dennis Conkin

The Colin Higgins Foundation, founded by the famed writer-director of the Hollywood hits *Harold and Maude*, *Nine to Five*, *Foul Play*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, is now accepting nominations for its second annual Courage Awards.

The awards honor three individuals who have demonstrated "grace under fire" while suffering sexual orientation discrimination.

Last year's winners of the award were Steven Cozza, 15, who founded Scouting For All as a young teen; Greg Congdon, 17, a high school football player in rural Pennsylvania who was ousted but later founded a gay-straight alliance chapter at his high school; Dana Rivers, a Sacramento-area teacher forced out of a job after announcing plans for sex reassignment surgery; and James Merrick, a California teacher who was forced out of the closet at a school meeting.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, February 23 and recipients will be announced sometime during the spring.

Higgins established the foundation in 1986, the same year he successfully completed a television mini-series based on Shirley MacLaine's *Out On A Limb*. He died of AIDS in 1988.

The foundation has provided

support to more than 300 organizations ranging from the American Film Institute to the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

The foundation was also the first to support GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Networks which works to end sexual orientation discrimination in education settings and materials.

Individuals chosen to receive the \$10,000 Colin Higgins

Courage Award "have endured overwhelming hostility and hate, yet have handled themselves with the utmost grace," according to the group's press statement.

Criteria for nominations include:

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth who have "bravely stood up to hostility and intolerance" based on their sexual orientation and have "triumphed over bigotry";
- LGBT adults who have made

a strong impact in the lives of LGBT youth;

• Allies of any age working to end homophobia and discrimination.

Another key factor in selecting winners of the annual award include the personal hardship they have experienced, the way in which the individual overcame or is overcoming that hardship and the efforts to empower others, according to the group's press statement.

The Colin Higgins Foundation is administered by the Tides Foundation, which partners with donors to increase resources for social change, and has awarded more than \$100 million over the last 10 years.

For more information, contact the Colin Higgins Foundation at P.O. Box 2990, San Francisco, CA 94129-0903 or call (415) 561-6400. The fax number is (415) 561-6401. The Web site is www.ColinHiggins.org. ▼

NGLTF Vaid Fellowship deadline nears

by Dennis Conkin

The deadline for the National Gay and Lesbian Policy Institute Vaid Fellowship summer session application is March 1.

The fellowships are from May 29 to August 10 or June 4 to August 16, and pay \$400 a week for 11 weeks to qualified people of color and other emerging gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender leaders who can choose one of two sessions at the New York-based Institute.

Fellows are responsible for their own housing and living expenses during their tenure.

Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program on at least a half

time basis, or have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate degree program within a year preceding the application deadline.

Applicants should have demonstrated leadership in progressive or LGBT communities, extensive writing, research and critical thinking skills, computer proficiency in word processing, database work, e-mail and Internet research.

Applicants also must have knowledge and commitment to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues – and a desire to work in a multicultural environment where commitment to diversity based on race, ethnic origin, gender age, sexual orientation, and physical ability is an important institutional value, ac-

cording to a Policy Institute press statement.

Applications must include a cover letter outlining the applicant's interests and background in public policy affecting GLBT people, a resume, contact information for three references, a brief writing sample, and college transcripts.

The fellowship was created by a grant from the Billie Jean King Foundation in honor of the institute's former director and longtime activist Urvashi Vaid.

The institute is the nation's largest GLBT think tank and is a clearing house for information, research, and analysis used by advocates, elected officials, government agencies, the media, and progressive organizations. Its primary programs are the Family

Policy Program, the Racial and Economic Justice Initiative, and the Aging Initiative. Other policy areas include GLBT voting behavior, political representation, youth and education issues, and health policy.

The institute also convenes the National Policy Roundtable and the National Religious Leadership Roundtable.

Founded in 1995, the Policy Institute is a program of the Washington, D.C.-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Applications for the fellowships must be mailed; the institute will not accept faxed or e-mailed applications. The address is: Policy Institute Fellowship Program, NGLTF Policy Institute, 121 West 27th Street Suite 501, New York, NY 10001. ▼

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ENDOSCOPIC & LASER TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

Housing Rights Committee opens Tenderloin office

by Katie Szymanski

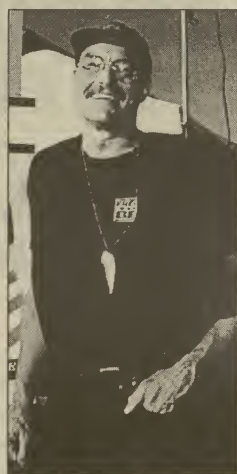
February 16 is a homecoming of sorts for the Housing Rights Committee, which will launch a neighborhood office in the Tenderloin tomorrow and operate the facility every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.

The Housing Rights Committee – which offers tenant counseling on topics from evictions and rent increases to repair problems, living conditions, and landlord conflicts – is headquartered in the Mission and already operates neighborhood sites in the Haight, Richmond, and Castro. But it was the Tenderloin where the committee first opened, relocating to the Mission only after an eviction last year. Thanks to a partnership with the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, the committee's tenant services will return to the area, serving a population at times hardest hit by the city's housing crisis.

"The Tenderloin is ground zero for folks," said Rebecca Graff, program director for the Housing Rights Committee. "When people are priced out of other areas if the city, they often end up in the Tenderloin. So those people with problems in the Tenderloin often have nowhere to go."

Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, of the committee, noted that Tenderloin housing issues are also unique by virtue of the number of single resident occupancy (SRO) hotels in the district.

"People who live in SROs are



TARC's Hank Wilson

constantly being victimized," he said. "There are a lot of problems with living conditions not being up to the standards that the law demands."

Because many people with AIDS live in SROs, Aviccoli Mecca said that the city may be on the verge of "not only a housing crisis ... but a health crisis as well."

Often hotel management will evict residents just before they qualify for rent control, allowing them back in as "new residents" later on.

"But 'musical rooms' is actually illegal, so if it's happening to anybody they should get in touch

with us. We can help," said Aviccoli Mecca, who is starting a project to clamp down on such practices. "The practice is responsible for forcing many PWAs onto the streets. We as a community really need to be behind the effort to stop this."

Because of the diversity of the Tenderloin population, a Chinese language speaker and Spanish language speaker will be on board at the clinic, said Graff, who added that speakers of other languages are being recruited as well.

For both the committee and TARC, the clinic's Tenderloin location is long overdue.

"We had been looking for a way to do this ever since we were evicted, and we're very lucky that TARC stepped into offer free space," said Graff. "This helps us to fulfill our goal of having more neighborhood sites, and also fills the gaps left from our earlier departure."

"Securing stable and safe housing is a priority, especially for people with AIDS," added Hank Wilson, TARC prevention program manager. "That's why TARC is glad to co-sponsor the counseling site." ▼

The Housing Rights Committee's Tenderloin neighborhood office will operate a free, drop-in clinic every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. out of TARC, 183 Golden Gate, at Leavenworth. For more information, call (415) 703-8634 or (415) 701-9282.

West Hollywood creates TG task force

by Liz Highleyman

The West Hollywood City Council last week voted unanimously to create a task force to address concerns of the transgender community. The seven-member task force will report to the city's Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board.

The task force, which will include five self-identified transgender persons from the local community as well as members of the city's Public Safety Commission and the LGAB, will identify issues and policy strategies to improve the quality of life for transgender people living or working in West Hollywood.

According to West Hollywood Mayor Jeffrey Prang, "This task force will serve an important role in exploring the issues affecting

transgender persons, including employment, HIV prevention and medical treatment, community awareness and empowerment, as well as sensitivity training for public safety personnel and City Hall staff. There are many complex issues facing transgender persons in our community and this task force is a first step in identifying public policy strategies to better serve the transgender community."

Said LGAB Co-chair John Lazar, "I am very pleased that the City Council passed our recommendations ... and determined that a task force to review transgender issues would be a great way to begin a community discussion on ways to make the lives of transgender persons better."

Members of the West Hollywood transgender community were pleased with the decision to

implement the new task force. "The establishment of this task force proves the city is progressive in protecting the civil rights of its residents," said Shirley Bushnell.

According to Sandra Crockett, "I was so excited when the council approved the task force on transgender issues ... I feel we can make a difference and help in making the changes that need to be made and be of real service to the transgender community."

The city of San Francisco has a similar body, the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, that was created last year.

In 1998 West Hollywood instituted an ordinance that protects against discrimination on the basis of gender identity, joining a growing number of cities including San Francisco; Atlanta; Madison, Wisconsin; Pittsburgh; and Seattle; and one state, Minnesota. ▼

TG benefits

◀ page 1

chotherapy, would be covered under all the city's health plans just as any other therapy.

"There's not going to be a flood of people coming forward," Arana said, adding that he didn't understand why, if only 12 transgender city workers were identified, the health board's report projected 35 surgeries in the first year, with the one-year waiting period.

Virginia Harmon, HRC inter-

im director, said she was pleased with the recommendations so far, but added that the one-year waiting period is discriminatory. "My partner was diagnosed with breast cancer," she said. "There was no waiting period, no co-pay, and no cap. This city has long held the cost of discrimination is too high."

Lisa Middleton, a member of the city's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, said the recommendations approved by the board were a good first step. "There are issues to be dealt with," she said.

Transgender city employee

Stephan Thorne also said he supported the recommendations.

Only one member of the health board, Harry Parechan, voted against the recommendations. "I have concerns about the transgender benefit," he said, adding that he was not discriminating against transgender people. He said he concerns were mainly with the fact that the health service board has only recently recovered from cost overruns, primarily due to pharmacy coverage. "I have a fiduciary responsibility, it has nothing to do with discrimination." ▼

Dog mauling

◀ page 4

for pretending that his being Jewish had any bearing on this investigation," said Jonathan Bernstein, the league's regional director. "An apparently lawfully issued and executed search warrant bears no resemblance to the systematic hunting down and slaughtering of 6 million Jews."

The public relations fiasco only got worse for the couple in the course of Tuesday's hearing. Several people testified of aggressive behavior by Hera. David Moser, a former resident of the Pacific Heights apartment building where the attack occurred, said he was bitten last June near the elevator.

"Hera bit me as I jumped away," said Moser. "She bit me on the butt but she didn't break the skin. I recall being kind of shocked by their [Knoller and Noel's] reaction. They didn't apologize and he [Noel] just said 'huh, interesting.'"

Noel later testified that everyone who spoke out against the dogs was either lying or grossly exaggerating. His strongest denial was over Moser's testimony, saying that Moser wasn't bitten at all but his injury was caused by bumping into the elevator door handle.

"I didn't say 'hmm interesting.' What I said was 'Bullshit. You hit yourself on the elevator door,'" Noel said.

Knoller later broke down in tears as she said that Hera played no part in the attack on Whipple.

"Hera was nowhere near Ms. Whipple during the attack," Knoller insisted.

Both Knoller and Noel left the



Hera, the Presa Canario dog

two-hour hearing when the Department of Animal Care and Control recommended that Hera be put to death.

Among those who attended the hearing to show their support were two St. Mary's lacrosse players whom Whipple coached. The young women wore navy blue ribbons in memory of Whipple.

"We're here to support Diane," player Megan Bryan told the B.A.R. "We all loved her."

Also in attendance, Terry Alvey, and her partner, Jennifer Thompson, who were so moved when they heard of the attack that they helped organize rallies in support of Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, outside of the Pacific Avenue building where Smith still resides next door to Noel and Knoller.

"It just moved me in the way nothing else has," Alvey told the B.A.R. "I'm a dog owner, and I live in the Bay Area and I felt like this could happen to anyone."

"A handful of friends and I made some signs saying support for Diane and we stood on the corner of the apartment building where the incident happened. The whole neighborhood started coming up to us to tell us about other incidents with the dogs and with their support. So, we started going up a couple of nights after work."

"There's usually about 10 of us that stand on the corner. It's not a big group but the neighborhood has been so supportive. We've given out about 300 flyers."

Alvey said if some good can come out of the attack, that it will be to focus attention on the need for gay couples to be afforded the same rights in civil cases as married heterosexual couples.

"I didn't know as a gay person that I couldn't file a civil suit if something happened to my partner," she said. "I was shocked."

Alvey met Smith during her first rally and said that Smith was very grateful for the community support. Smith didn't attend the hearing but Avery made a tape of it for her. Avery held her fourth rally just after Tuesday's hearing and met with Smith again.

"It's still a very tough time for her," said Avery. "Sunday would have been her seventh year anniversary, and tomorrow [Wednesday] is Valentine's Day."

Alvey said she will help raise money to keep Whipple's memory alive through a foundation that has been set up. ▼

Alvey can be contacted at: TerryAlvey@aol.com. Donations can be sent to: Diane Alexis Whipple Foundation, 2443 Fillmore Street, P.O. Box 432, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Rev. Michael S. Pozar

On February 8, the Reverend Michael S. Pozar passed away after a long battle with AIDS. He was 48.

Michael, who was also a writer and musician, will be remembered for his work within the Lutheran church in making the church aware of AIDS, particularly in the Latino community. He was the founder of the Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET) and co-founder of Acción Luterana, a network of Spanish-speaking Lutherans involved in the AIDS epidemic.

He was a volunteer coordinator at Shanti for a number of years and served on the governing board of Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group. In addition, he was the pastor of a Lutheran church in Pacifica.

Until his death, he was working on a book entitled *The Mystical Side of Jesus*. He will be forever remembered by his family and friends for his intellect, spirituality, dedication, musical talent, and humor.

A memorial service is being planned. For further information, please call (415) 282-5265.

James P. Scrivani

James P. Scrivani (Jim) passed away suddenly on January 5, 2001 while vacationing in Fort Myers, Florida.

Jim was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 16, 1949, and was raised in Wildwood Crest, New Jersey. Jim was a graduate of The Peddie School in Hightstown, New Jersey, where he was named to the All State teams in both football and lacrosse. Jim also was a graduate of Cornell University and attended the Maryland Institute of Art where he studied photography. Jim moved to San Francisco in 1976 and was employed by the Golden Gate Bridge District.

Jim is survived by his mother, Adella; his brother, Andrew E.; sister-in-law, Charlotte; and two nephews; all residing in Ocean View, New Jersey.

A memorial service will be held this Sunday, February 18 at the Main Post Chapel on Fisher Loop at the Presidio of San Francisco. Services will begin at 3 p.m. Donations in Jim's memory may be sent to The Peddie School, P.O. Box A, Hightstown, New Jersey, 08520.



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Bond, girls

by Jim Provenzano

Over a year ago, the NCAA added "sexual orientation" to its non-discrimination policy.

If you're lesbian or gay, and in college sports, you probably haven't seen much of a difference. No fans should expect a deluge of college jocks coming out in droves.

Oakland's Mills College and Ohio's Kenyon College are two of the few places of higher learning that have widely known openly lesbian and gay athletic directors.

Another exception may be at Harvard, where a panel addressing these issues will take place on February 18.

David Kopay, NFL player from 1962-72, and Jennifer Allard, head softball coach at Harvard and freshman proctor, will speak at the panel.

Reggie Rivers, former NFL player with the Denver Broncos and ABC commentator, will also be there. A heterosexual, African American man, Rivers speaks to students about prejudice in athletics. In October, Rivers wrote a col-

umn in the *Denver Post* equating homophobia to racism. No doubt he's taken some heat over that essay, but it stands as another step toward a consensus of opinions from sports authorities and stars.

Two students are also speaking at the event, members of the Harvard women's and men's water polo teams, Kate Callaghan and Michael Crosby. Although they may not be queer, getting them to speak out of the pool is great progress, in light of the overall anti-gay attitudes in college sports.

Event organizer Cliff Davidson, a junior at Harvard, calls the sponsoring gay group, BOND, "a safe place in which sexual

orientation is no longer a barrier to social interaction. The degree to which persons choose to emphasize sexual orientation - whether for intimate pursuits or for purposes of political action - also varies from person to person.

"BOND as an entity does not promote any particular theories concerning the larger social meaning of sexual orientation, nor does it engage in political pursuits in which it claims to speak for its members or for segments of the larger community. These vital



Hasty plunging: Ivy Leaguers take the plunge in yet another bizarre heterosexual ritual.

functions we leave to other organizations."

Like fraternities?

Chug-a-lug & hug

My experiences in college dating were often the result of a hapless reaction in showers and locker rooms. Being bold enough to chat a guy up who did offer a flirtatious glance or Salome-esque towel dance led to the resultant fumbling young adult romance. Ignoring such opportunities left a lot of wondering and regret. "Damn! Coulda had a V8!"

But is such friendly behavior - talking while naked, devoid of actual public sex - inappropriate? The common gripe of anti-gay collegiates - and frat boys - is the shower/soap scenario. To them, nudity + hot water = sex. Forget the student's athletic ability. "He was lookin' at my butt!"

To observant gay folk, it's the heterosexual collegiate institutions that appear rather gay; nude hazing rituals, drinking binges, persistently male-only bonding experiences that resemble a muscular version of the Little Rascals' He-Man Woman-Haters Club. Harvard's got a few of them, including the drag-fest Hasty Pudding Club, which had the very good taste to honor film star and rehab sweetie Drew Barrymore.

We as a gay community often respond that straight - or in many a frat boy's case, straight-acting - fears are ridiculous and self-centered. Having suffered years of repressing our desires, the average homo can control himself at least all the way to the steam room, where identity becomes a bit more foggy.

Here in our community, it seems several guys are making up for lost time, by hoping to turn

their gymnasiums into bathhouses. One letter writer dramatized his experience of having a partner tossed out of the Young Men's Christian Association for alleged weiner-wagging.

If only the managers would do a bit of research on their organization's history, they'd figure out that the YMCA and its attendant cozy dorms, showers, and male bonding pretty much cultivated homosexuality throughout the early 20th century.

Gold's Gym members decry homophobia when punished for popping wood, as if it were a civil right to share one's fully engorged state with any hapless bather.

Whether this, that, or the other accusation is true is up to others to argue. I'll only volunteer that some gyms have a lot more pumping going on than you'd think.

For now, straight people have the advantage of public displays of affection in every zip code outside our own.

In our own little world, no doubt those resembling - or actually being - a porn performer popping petrified peepee gathers less critique, and those considered less attractive by the muscle-pumping target market are more frequent victims of ejection. Such is the injustice of a culture where looks are status.

Purple non-haze

Whether you're a demi-god or Jabba the Hut, one fact remains. There are bathhouses, and there are gyms. In San Francisco, a bridge and a large body of water separate the two.

For a fraternity without the hypocrisy, the rush is on tonight. The Zeta Chapter of Delta Lambda

Phi, the first national fraternity for gay, bisexual, and progressive men, finishes a few nights of rush week. A community-based chapter, men in the Bay Area are invited to learn about the fraternity and sign up for a bid to become a brother.

Rush will take place from 8 to 9 p.m., Thursday, February 15 at The Bar on Castro. For those men under the age of 21, or for more information, either call (650) 704-4013 or e-mail davidmillerca@earthlink.net.

For more info on BOND, visit <http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~bond/index.html>.

For more info on aquatic bonding, consult a Spartacus guide.

Go down under

On March 1, GLBT sports come in like a lion, or perhaps a lion queen. It's the official pre-registration start for Gay Games 2002. Join Team San Francisco at Harvey's, 500 Castro Street, for the official kick-off. Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m., with an auction of sports and Gay Games items. Team SF pins (and a signed copy of *PINS*, my little novel) and T-shirts will be available, as well as a sneak peek at the Team SF uniforms.

Dr. Kathleen McGuire, the artistic director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, will be the emcee for the evening. Perhaps we ought to brush up on sports songs: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," "The Victors March," or (perish the thought) "Who Let the Dogs Out," which certainly takes on a morbid subtext these days.

For more info, visit <http://www.teamsf.org> or call (415) 522-2386. ▼



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Africa & AIDS: New measures, old stigmas

by S. Predrag

Some African countries are trying out new measures to cope with the AIDS disaster on the continent. The Ivory Coast has appointed a minister charged with the fight against HIV/AIDS, while in South Africa, two universities will offer a first-ever postgraduate diploma program in HIV/AIDS for managers.

However, AIDS is still stigmatized in most countries on the continent, which is home to some 26 million HIV-positive people - two thirds of all infected people worldwide - and advocates said that the problem needs to be addressed by an aggressive AIDS awareness campaign.

The Medical University of South Africa (Medunsa) and Stellenbosch University have just announced that, starting this month, they will be offering a yearlong postgraduate diploma program in HIV/AIDS

management in the workplace.

The Medunsa vice chancellor, Professor Ramaranka Andy Mogotlane, recently said that HIV/AIDS has gone beyond an epidemic to a plague. "It means we should increase the capacity to manage the plague, particularly among those who manage people."

Mogotlane explained that the postgraduate diploma course in HIV/AIDS management will target managers and employees from the private sector, government institutions, non-governmental, and religious organizations.

The two universities will be offering courses in such a way that Medunsa will be focusing on public health, HIV/AIDS as a disease, its prevention, and caring for people living with HIV/AIDS. Stellenbosch University will be concentrating on management, industrial psychology, human resources, and the legal implications of the disease.

Experts from around the world will be called upon to give lectures

on HIV/AIDS and people living with HIV/AIDS also will come to talk about their own experiences.

The vice rector of Stellenbosch University, Professor Ralph Stumpf, insisted that the program will not deal with scientific factors because of - as he put it - the controversy surrounding the cause of AIDS. The postgraduate course has the blessing of President Thabo Mbeki's government, which has sided with AIDS dissidents who are questioning the link between HIV and AIDS.

Dr. Franklyn Lisk, director of the International Labor Organization's program on HIV/AIDS and the workplace, who recently visited South Africa, wholeheartedly welcomed the postgraduate program at the two universities.

According to a recent ILO study on the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa, it is estimated that by the year 2020, AIDS-related deaths could cut the labor force in some countries by 35 percent. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.246027

The following person(s) are doing business as: Utempo. 2133 Stockton Street Apt. B304, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Roger Limon CEO. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/09/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246021

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pangaea Fossils. 644 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Kurkewicz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246106

The following person(s) are doing business as: lencraft. 229 8th Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ron Lussier. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246085

The following person(s) are doing business as: La Focaccia. Focaccia. 1009 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gianluca Viscardi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246145

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pctechs.lv. 2501 Bayshore Blvd. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Brett Lunsford. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/19/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.245522

The following person(s) are doing business as: Park Bench Cafe. 3214 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Samer Jweinat. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 12/21/00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/21/00. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246077

The following person(s) are doing business as: Karno Remodeling. 822 44th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Igor Karnaukhov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/17/01. JAN. 25, FEB. 1, 8, 15, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 318100

In the Matter of the Application of Celian Schoenbach for Change of Name.
The application of Celian Schoenbach for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Celian Schoenbach has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Dylan Vade. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of March, 2001, at 9 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 11, 18, 25, FEB. 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246037

The following person(s) are doing business as: P & K Painting. 1300 Page Street #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co partners signed Michael A. Truhill-Pierce and James M. Knight. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/15/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/01. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246133

The following person(s) are doing business as: Presidio World Campus/ Presidio World Institute. Building #36, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Richard M. Gray, Ph.D., Board Secretary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 03/15/93. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/19/01. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246335

The following person(s) are doing business as: Showbiz The Memorabilia Store. 1318 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roger Dale Brown. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/29/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/29/01. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246235

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rose Enterprises, Speed Master. 4992 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by husband and wife signed Harry C. Sugang and Benelita Rose. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/25/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/25/01. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246114

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lion King Entertainment. 1791 Revere Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roland Ochoa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/18/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 317691

In the Matter of the Application of Darrell Gerard Ambuhl for Change of Name.
The application of Darrell Gerard Ambuhl for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Darrell Gerard Ambuhl has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Darrell Scarlet. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of March, 2001, at 9 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 316961

In the Matter of the Application of Victoria Beatrice Black for Change of Name.
The application of Victoria Beatrice Black for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Victoria Beatrice Black has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Eowyn. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 26th day of February, 2001, at 9 o'clock AM., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246531

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pizza Organica & Brewing Company. 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Taylor Azevedo Maia, Rogerio Marina Silva and Gina Maria Gochez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/20/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/01. FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246499

The following person(s) are doing business as: Easy Fix. 584 Castro Street #302, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bevin Jennings Shamel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/05/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/01. FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.245807

The following person(s) are doing business as: California Rug Cleaners. 2507 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed David M. Jordan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 10/15/89. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/01. FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Quick-Come Transportation. 38 Pope Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael K. Tam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/31/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/31/01. FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246470

The following person(s) are doing business as: Milkcrates Entertainment, Eighty-Eight Milkcrates Entertainment, 185 Hale Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Franco Cruz Torres, Brandon Cruz, and Lisette Cruz. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/02/01. FEB. 8, 15, 22, MAR 1, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246571

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ascendant. 680 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory B. Goodwin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246575

The following person(s) are doing business as: Joseph Nesci Technical Communications. 415 Noe Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph F. Nesci. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246581

The following person(s) are doing business as: Deng's Trucking. 34 Varennes Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xue F. Deng. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 7, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/07/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.246605

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tre Media Group. 2037 Irving Street #214, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hao H. Duong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 7, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/07/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246504

The following person(s) are doing business as: Clever Cat Kids. 801 Kansas Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christin Schmidt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246559

The following person(s) are doing business as: Y.K. Cheung Photography. 2217 San Jose Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yiu Keung Cheung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 6, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/06/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.245927

The following person(s) are doing business as: Outlook. 461 Castro Street, Suite #D, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Castillo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246624

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flair SF. 1415 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Andrea Rossing Johnson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, February 08, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO.246117

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Eighth Dimension. 2134 15th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Arrik Metzger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, January 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/01. FEB. 15, 22, MAR 1, 8, 2001

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is Brickhouse Cafe, LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 426 Brannan Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for: 41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
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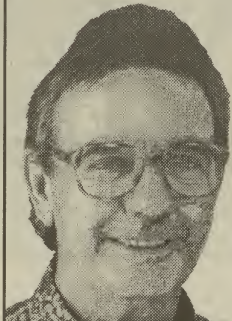
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Baritone with a love of the repertoire
Grammy nominee Matthias Goerne
discusses his artistry and his career.

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Windsors & Woolworth's
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Element of surprise
Painter Joe Brainard at
Berkeley Art Museum.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 7 • 15 February 2001

'Sing-a-Long Sound of Music' to play Castro Theatre

Convent shocker

'Underneath her wimple, she
has curlers in her hair!'

by Matthew Kennedy



'Ray, a drop of golden sun'
at The Sing-A-Long Sound of Music

So I'm channel-surfing one afternoon about a year ago and along comes that big bully, Rosie O'Donnell. Her guest was Julie Andrews, synapses not all firing. La Andrews went on and on about this strange new Rocky Horror-esque movie experience that is all the rage in New York and London. At first I was put off by her enthusiasm. A *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music*, complete with subtitles, souvenir props and toys, seemed a little too precious for my taste. It sounded forced, but something told me to go. Could be fun as the record requests through the over-the-hill songs. About a singing nun, a naval captain and his seven whelps. Well, it was fun. Having been baptized at the temple, I am now a believer.

I was in London last fall when opportunity came a-knockin'. The *Sing-A-Long* was camped out for a long run at the Prince Charles Theatre, a well-equipped one-screen moviehouse located in the urban twilight zone that could be Leicester Square, Soho or Chinatown. Having limited experience with interactive movie-going, I expected a Castro-

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Once in love with Liesl

Charmian Carr on 'The Sound of Music'

by Richard Dodds

Now you can add boogers on noses to raindrops on roses. *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music* gives audiences the opportunity to totally deconstruct one of the world's most beloved movies, and that's fine by the film's most ardent goodwill ambassador.

Charmian Carr, who played 16-going-on-17 Liesl in the movie, has devoted a good part of the past 37 years to burnishing the enduring legacy of *The Sound of Music*. She's been there for all the anniversary celebrations, and 20th Century Fox has called on her over the years to help promote the releases of the video, the CD, the laser disc, and the DVD.

Last year, Carr authored *Forever Liesl*, her personal memoir of making *The Sound of Music*, including an account of its enduring effect on generations of filmgoers. The book is, to say the least, a very reverent appraisal of the *Sound of Music* phenomenon.

And yet, there was Carr on stage at the Castro Theatre, judging the costume contest at the

San Francisco premiere of *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music*. After countless nuns, von Trapp children, lonely goatherds, and brown paper packages tied up in string paraded across the stage, Carr picked her favorite: a woman covered in large dark-colored blobs. It was a lonely goat turd.

"A lot of interviewers say to me, 'We've heard it's really sacrilegious, irreverent. How could they do this to such a beautiful film?' But if these people who are making really outrageous fun of it didn't love it so much, they wouldn't bother. If they hadn't seen the movie over and over, they wouldn't know how to make fun of it."

Carr didn't know much about the London-born *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music* phenomenon when she attended her first SALSOM event in Austin at an AIDS benefit. "There were three people sitting behind me, and they had actually written a script," Carr said during her San Francisco visit last week. "They must have watched the tape over and over again, because they timed their comments to come between the actors' dialogue. And some of the stuff they said was hysterical. The best one was when the Captain and

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Twentieth Century Fox

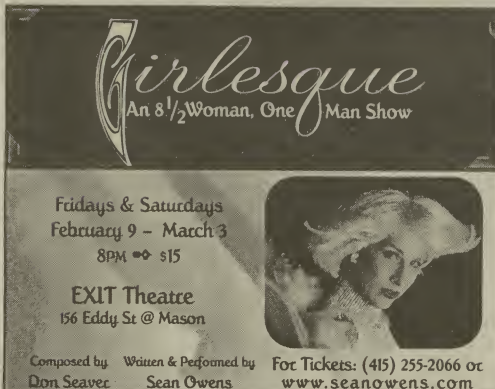
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by Roberto Friedman
and Fiona Fauna

Folks over at the Sing-A-Long Sound of Music (SALSOM) at the Castro Theatre had to agree with our comments last week that the top ticket price of \$22.50 is a bit steep. But they add that there is a way to attend the event without shelling out big bucks, as the production is actively seeking out volunteers at all performances. The strenuous duties include handing out goodie bags and ushering (weekend performances have assigned seating, and Out There didn't know the Castro seats even had numbers). For information on getting involved, e-mail st_narcissus@hotmail.com, or go to www.craigslit.com, and search out Sound of Music on the "Volunteers" page.

SALSOM made its local premiere last week at the Castro, in a benefit for gay film fest folks Frameline. Maybe if the Frameline Board of Directors hadn't handed out entry cards to every single queen who came as a **man nun** or tricked up in **lederhosen** or a **dirndl**, the costume contest wouldn't have gone on *forever*. The grand prize winner was not the film's **Lonely Goat-herd** (yodel-lay-he-ho), but a much more creative and neo-realist **Lonely Goat-Turd**. It was the kind of animal dropping you



"I hate men's guts!"
—Lypsinka
Thick around the middle? Go vegetarian.
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Lypsinka: a new reason to be a vegetarian

question as to why there were no images in the show that contained male frontal nudity.

Last Friday, he took this up with Pierre and Gilles personally, with the help of a translator from the French consulate. According to Pierre, "We were a bit surprised, too. His [Cameron's] first selection of images had almost no sexuality at all, and we said this was an important part of our work and needed to be included."

Evidently, Cameron revised his selection to include more sexuality, but male frontal nudity, something P&G are quite fond of, still didn't make the cut. "This was the first time we decided to trust someone completely, so we just let

him have his way."

The exhibit appeared first at Manhattan's New Museum of Contemporary Art, where Cameron is curator, and came directly to San Francisco, the only other stop on the tour. Guess we can all be grateful Cameron never had a chance to curate **Robert Mapplethorpe**.

It's a dilly!

We'd like to administer a large horse-pill-size sedative to excitable gossip columnist **Liz**

Smith, the big old dyke from Texas, for going on and on so rapturously about the marriage of closet case billionaire **Barry Diller** and socialite **Diane von Furstenberg**. OK, we know, they're old, they don't have sex together, they're doing it for tax purposes. But Old Lizzy greeted their union with such rapture and apparent multiple orgasm that we wondered if she uses a vibrator with the inscription, "Luv, Barry." Anything that makes queers appear "normal" is trumpetable fodder for Liz, including forgetting to mention her own longtime lesbian affair on a regular basis.

Brave new world

The business section of the *New York Times* reported last week on "new toys for young sophisticates." Graphics compared the old standard toys, such as **Pretty-in-Plaid Barbie** (about \$6), with the new: **Glam Girl Alexa**, who says, "I'm Alexa, your personal expert on style!" (about \$30). "Old standard" **Tonka Mighty Dump Truck** has been shunted aside in favor of **Tucker My Talking Truckbot** (about \$40). The built truckbot (and we mean built) says, "This is just like pumping iron!" Oh god, body fascism from a children's toy! What's next, **Twister on Steroids**? ▼

could put your arms around and truly love.

More animal love: Our eyes and ears in New Yawk, New Yawk report multiple sightings of a poster propagated by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) which features Chelsea native **Lypsinka** screaming demonically, "I hate men's guts!" The poster advises: "Thick around the middle? Go vegetarian."

Lyps looks like a deranged and dangerous **Lucille Ball** in the new ad campaign. She follows in the footsteps of former PETA models **Sir John Gielgud**, **Bea Arthur**, and *Showgirls* star **Elizabeth Berkley**, wearing a slutty dress made of lettuce. We're sure Lypsinka could have done something clever with a carrot.

P, G and Eeee!

Out There will now answer the question on everyone's mind since the opening of the big **Pierre et Gilles** retrospective at Yerba Buena Center last weekend — namely, in the final analysis, is the Parisian pair's output fine art or kitsch? Kitsch. But hugely artful kitsch.

Notice we said *artful*, not *artsy*, which however describes the crowd which attended the glam opening in a torrential downpour. Thank the drippy heavens that the Swiss megacorporation Swatch was handing out umbrellas in queer white. Gee, we've never seen so many unusual styles of eyeglasses, and we'll probably come again!

Meanwhile, our own fearless writer **Robert Julian**, never one to take "no penis" for an answer, went straight to the horse's mouth. In last week's issue of the *BAR*, Julian reported how **Dan Cameron**, curator of the Pierre et Gilles show, refused to answer the



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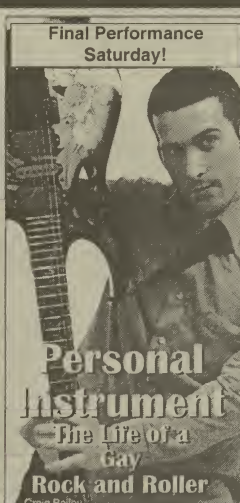
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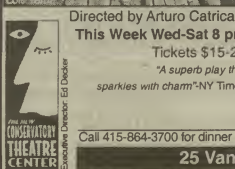
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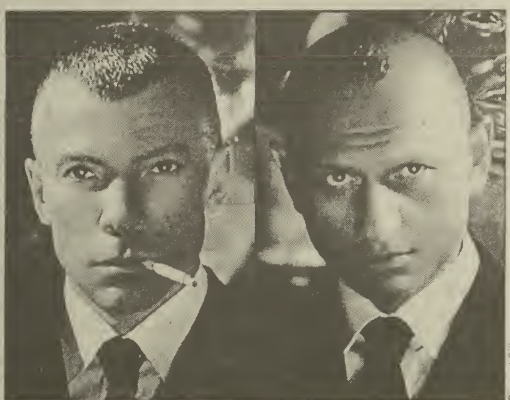
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Autoportrait à la Cigarette (detail), with Pierre et Gilles, 1999

DANCE

Gorilla dance theatre

Ballet Preljocaj at Yerba Buena Center

by Stephanie von Buchau

Unless they were fond of techno-pop, fake fur, murder and French intellectual pretensions, anyone who bought a ticket for Ballet Preljocaj on the grounds that it promised explicit nudity must have been sorely disappointed.

The "nudity" appeared after three guys had danced a poignant piece dressed in gorilla suits (more on that later). They then stripped to the buff, advanced in the dim light and fell down, heads upstage, feet towards us, penises dressed left. My companion, who cordially loathed the entire evening, later asked, "How did they get their dicks to fall in the same direction?" I have no idea, but it reminded me of Anton Dolin's famous quip when asked why he didn't dance nude: "Not everything stops at the same time."

So much for the prurient content of Angelin Preljocaj's *Paysage après la Bataille* (Landscape after the Battle), which I saw last Thursday at the Yerba Buena Center. This 75-minute piece is one of those theatrical dance evenings it is too easy to label Eurotrash. Frankly, it isn't chic enough to be trashy. Remember Redha's *La Pavane Rouge* at San Francisco Ballet, with the great Dead Can Dance score? That was Eurotrash with a capital E, and I loved it. Man does not live by Balanchine alone.

The Albanian-born Preljocaj first erupted here in 1995, when the Lyon Opera and Ballet appeared in SF and Berkeley. Preljocaj's 80-minute, potted *Romeo and Juliet* — set in prison, where Juliet was the warden's daughter, and Romeo an incarcerated punk — was disliked by everybody I knew. I enjoyed its short, brutish take on a subject often embalmed in beautiful dresses and endless ensembles of sassy street whores. There was plenty of simulated sex, but I don't remember nudity.

I missed Preljocaj's company debut for San Francisco Performances in 1998, but that time my colleagues raved. Perhaps that should have been a warning. Though I'm glad I saw *Paysage après la Bataille*, and I'm looking forward to his *Le Parc* later in the SFB season, I'm not sure I'd enjoy too many more of these intellectual exercises in pop culture. SFB boss Helgi Tomasson was there; I'd have loved to grill him after-wards.

Goran Vejvoda's techno-pop score sampled bits of text, old pop songs, and added electronic noises and music (keyboards; drumming; backbeat) of his own devising. If there was nothing as haunting as Dead Can Dance vocals, there was also nothing that cliché. It was clearly music cut to fit the choreographer's vision. *Paysage* is not a work impelled by music so much as accompanied by it.

World wraps

Designer Adrien Chalard's set consists of a large red Flokati rug hanging upstage and three more in Day-Glo colors on each side, interwoven with shower curtains in jungle prints, through which the dancers enter and exit. His costumes were either black pajamas or Britney Spears-style wisps of colored material, with an occasional oddity such as the baby

wraps worn by a primeval couple later eaten by polar bears. (Don't ask.) Mini-skirted gabardine business suits covered the female ensemble that followed a madcap rush through a supermarket by brightly dressed "housewives" (all of them male) pushing metal carts.

I didn't mind the Pop Art colors, sets, costumes, or the music — especially as each section seemed to end in a hard-driving rock beat made for Preljocaj's dangerously fast choreography. I was disturbed by the terminal war between the sexes. The piece opens with three women being strangled at a disco. In one section, three couples (two hetero, one gay male) threaten each other with fingers held like guns, repeatedly shooting each other, all the while screaming, "Fuck you!" — "No, fuck you!"

My problem with this kind of content is the same one I have with Holocaust fiction. Is the writer/filmmaker/choreographer

disapproving or exploiting? I don't have the answer. I just know that, when it makes me uncomfortable, it isn't because of the behavior itself, but because of doubts about the artist's motives. Preljocaj legitimizes his process in classic French intellectual tradition, by either combining or contrasting the art theories of Marcel Duchamp and Joseph Conrad.

I couldn't figure out which, even though Conrad was one of my grad school subjects. The best thing that came out of this literary conceit was a song in which the narrator repeated, "Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Conrad, Joseph Duchamp, Marcel Conrad." Maybe Preljocaj just liked the sound of the syllables — I did — without bothering about whether it made intellectual sense.

Finally, there was the choreography itself, sometimes slow and tedious, often repetitive (with too many unisons and no counterpoint), never tender or loving.

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Ballet Preljocaj in *Paysage après la Bataille*

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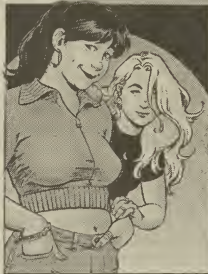
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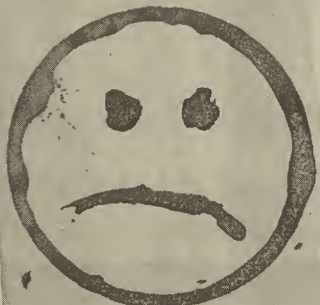
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Unstoppable

'Stop Kiss'

by Richard Dodds

A hate crime didn't stop the opening of a play about a hate crime. Five days before Saturday's premiere of *Stop Kiss* at the Brava Theatre Center, someone doused the lobby roof of the new refurbished theater and the adjoining storefronts with gasoline, and the fire knocked out their electricity.

But with a generator to provide light to the lobby, and the auditorium itself unaffected, the lesbian-run Brava! for Women in the Arts was able to unveil its sterling production of Diana Son's simple but touching play.

Stop Kiss follows the growing closeness between two straight-identified women as they try to reconcile their mutual attraction with their own phobias. Interspersed among the scenes of their evolving relationship are scenes that flash forward to the horrific event that will eventually cement their union.

The play starts as a cheery, lightweight urban comedy as an idealistic schoolteacher newly arrived in New York becomes fast friends with a spinning-her-wheels traffic reporter. But as an apartment scene shifts to a police interrogation room in director-designer Loy Arcenas' sharply staged production, we learn early on that Son has more on her mind than a valentine to budding lesbianism.

Actually, the play heads in several different directions almost simultaneously, and while each is a valid dramatic subject, there is a diffusion of message by the end. But despite this, and a consistently simplistic tone, the play is hard not to like for its humanistic affirmations and a redeeming wry tone.



Dena Martinez and Michi Barali in *Stop Kiss*

The production benefits from a solid cast highlighted by Michi Barali's ingratiating performance as the make-no-waves urban veteran Callie. Barali, a newcomer to Bay Area stages, is a terrifically natural performer able to hit effective subtle tones in both the play's humor and growing pathos.

As Sara, the recent New York transplant, Dena Martinez provides a strong compliment to Barali's Callie, and Roberto Robinson brings a humorous edge to Callie's sometimes boyfriend George. Tom Clyde lends the proper stal-

wart aura to Sara's former mid-western boyfriend Peter, and Louis Landman and Cathleen Riddley capably complete the cast.

Stop Kiss is a play of easy answers to complicated questions. Fortunately, it is also a play of grace and redemption that has been enticingly realized at the Brava Theatre Center. ▼

Stop Kiss will run at the Brava Theater Center through March 11. Tickets are \$24 - \$30. Call 392-4400.

Girl talk

'I Think I Like Girls'

by Richard Dodds

Everyone has a story to tell. Some stories resonate because they intersect interestingly with our own. Others may draw attention because they are so different from anything we have experienced. But some don't foment much of anything, perhaps because of familiarity, or maybe it's just in the way they are told.

Whether you're a lesbian or a gay man, *I Think I Like Girls*, a new docu-drama about growing up lesbian, probably will contain elements from each of the above categories for you. Fortunately, the occasional dramatic blandness of the third category is outweighed by the heart, humor, and insight of what surrounds it.

Leigh Fondakowski, the writer-director of *I Like Girls*, spent several years interviewing on videotape a cross-section of lesbians, who talked about the various dramas associated with finding places for themselves in a skeptical and sometimes hostile society. Fondakowski was also the head writer on Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project*, which used the interview technique to explore the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Fondakowski is obviously comfortable with the format, and the

two-act production presented by Encore Theatre at Thick House has been smartly constructed and efficiently staged. A cast of five women engagingly plays a variety of drawn-from-life characters, with several making multiple appearances in the cross-cutting production.

A depiction of the process is part of the production, with the occasional appearance of an interviewer working with a video camera and asking questions of her subjects. That the sessions were videotaped is clear enough from the performers' adept recreations of vocal idiosyncrasies and body-language markers.

In some of the most telling scenes, Fondakowski (as portrayed by Lisa Steindler) is seen interviewing her own mother (believably played by Barbara Pitts), specifically on how she feels about raising two lesbian daughters. "Maybe if I had insisted on more femininity..." the mother says, not yet recoiled to the scions she was dealt.

It's a notion more amusing than sad in the context. Another recurring story flips that equation. Daphne Scholinski (memorably rendered by Kelli Simpkins) recalls being incarcerated for three years in a mental institution as a teenager where her diagnosis of "gender identity disorder" was treated with



Megan Spooner as Melissa

classes in feminine behavior. Fondakowski eventually puts a humorous spin on this incredibly naïve therapy by turning it into a choreographed number performed by the entire company (which also features Amy Resnick and Megan Spooner).

Other tales include reasonably happy endings (a mutilated Barbie doll is quickly replaced by a football) and too-familiar sad outcomes ("telling my mother was the worst mistake ever made"). There are moments when the dynamics of some of these highly personal stories don't translate into effective theater, a situation that judicious editing could improve.

As it is, I mostly liked *I Think I Like Girls*. ▼

I Think I Like Girls will run at Thick House through Feb. 26. Tickets are \$15 and \$20. Call 401-8081.

Strength wed with gentleness

Baritone Matthias Goerne is up for Grammy

by Jason Serinus

A magical sense of stillness filled Herbst Theater last month as baritone Matthias Goerne began his set of five Schubert songs to texts of Friedrich von Schlegel. Twice, as I found myself taking deep breaths, filling myself fully with the sounds and feelings coming from this man, I had to hold back sobs. As this great artist gave life to such phrases as, "The green earth shines ever more green/Just before the sun is gone," and "All have sprung from the heavenly source/Is not every being one of the chorus?" I asked myself, how often does one experience such tenderness from a man?

There are times in our lives when we meet someone, and by their voice alone, know that it is a match. So it is with the voice and artistry of Matthias Goerne. First heard locally in recital with San Francisco Performances two years ago, the baritone recently returned to the Herbst for a rare presentation of two lieder recitals in a week: one of Schumann, the other of Schubert. Even as signs of an oncoming cold forced him to leave the stage before the end of the recital, one could feel that Goerne had left his mark on all those in attendance.

Matthias Goerne has touched far more than his audiences at the concerts and song recitals which comprise the bulk of his public appearances. At age 34, the baritone has just received his fourth Grammy nomination, this for a recording of Bach cantatas with Roger Norrington (Decca). His first Grammy nomination was for his role in Braunfel's delightful opera, *Die Vogel (The Birds)*, the second for his Schumann disc with Vladimir Ashkenazy at the piano, and the third for the Hollywood songbook of Hans Eiler.

Goerne's Bach is performed with the same honeyed tone and open-hearted phrasing that distinguished his breathtaking Schubert set in Herbst. His gently understated, seamless singing of Bach's famed solo bass cantata, *Ich habe genug* ("For me, it is enough. I have taken the Savior into my eager arms; for me it is enough!"), lightly accompanied by Norrington, has created a recording to treasure.

Best-laid plans

After two failed attempts to interview Goerne in San Francisco, I finally caught up with him by phone in Brussels. It was midnight there, and he had just finished a rehearsal with pianist Alfred Brendel for forthcoming recitals of Beethoven's *An die Ferne Geliebte* and Schubert's *Schwanengesang*. Calling Brendel "really a genius, a great artist and a great man," he was enthusiastic about their forthcoming plans to record both Schubert's *Schwanengesang* and *Winterreise*.

Goerne was delighted with his Grammy nominations. He expressed "total surprise" at last year's nomination for the Eisler, stating, "In my opinion, it was a fantastic success to come that far with that kind of record." Though he has already won all the impor-



Baritone Matthias Goerne

tant European prizes, including the Gramophone Vocal award for the Eisler, the Cannes Award, and the Echo Prize, he laughingly confessed he hoped he would win the Grammy sometime. "The other nominees are also really good."

While Goerne's Bach faces some tough competition from Cecilia Bartoli's Vivaldi album, Thomas Quasthoff's Brahms/Liszt lieder, Maria Bayo's Handel arias and cantatas, and Anna Sophie von Otter's *Folksongs*, his biggest obstacle is Grammy politics. After some discussion, we agreed that while the Grammy nominations, made by experts in their respective fields, hold great significance, the actual awards are much less important and, quite frankly, "ridiculous." Grammy awards are determined by the entire membership of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, including many people who have never heard the recordings of the classical artists nominated, let alone the music of Braunfels and Eisler. Big labels, and artists who have lots of connections in the industry, usually garner the awards.

Matthias Goerne was no more than nine years old when he told his parents that he wished to be a professional singer. Raised in an artistic environment — his father is currently director of all the acting theatres in Dresden — Goerne began singing in a theatre children's choir. When it came time to work with a teacher, he took up to 10 one-hour lessons every week.

"This is really a lot of study," he explained. "Most students spend only an hour a week with their teacher. It's really amazing to have 10 hours a week. This is such an important way to learn all the fundamentals. Later on, I studied four or even six hours a day. But to study 10 hours a week in the beginning is really amazing. After a short time, I could decide what piece was right for me, and what was too early."

Idol time

When Goerne was only 20, he won a West Berlin vocal competition whose jury was headed by Aribert Reimann. Goerne asked Reimann if he could connect him with the great baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. The connection was made, and the two studied together from approximately 1985 to 1988.

"This was a turning point for

me," Goerne shared. "The possibility to study with my idol, with the greatest name and the greatest artist I knew, was immensely important." Without in any way imitating Fischer-Dieskau's style, Goerne was taught how to "concentrate" himself in a short time, "to dive deep into a piece in a couple of minutes, and to control everything, including the atmosphere with the audience."

Goerne's next teacher was another great singer of the last generation, the formidable soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf. At the time they met, Goerne's voice sounded like a tenor on top, a baritone in the middle, and a bass in the lower register. "She told me I had to decide if I wanted to be a tenor or a baritone or a bass. She worked really hard with me on technical things. She put [the voice] more and more together, and taught me to find my own timbre."

With neither singer did he study interpretation. "The most important thing in interpretation is personality," explained Goerne, "and the best teacher is my own life."

When asked about his recordings, Goerne highly recommended the Eisler and his Schumann disc with his regular accompanist,

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Dead-end kid 'Ratcatcher' in Glasgow

by David Lamble

Early on in Lynne Ramsay's debut feature, *Ratcatcher*, a gang of boys rustling through plastic bags of garbage make what in another film would be the grisly discovery of a canine corpse — but in a landscape resembling a moon made out of Glad bags, the find merely inspires some dark humor. "Somebody's chucked out a perfectly good dog." In the Scottish slum world of twelve-year-old James Gillespie, no boy can find a pet that far up the food chain. James' only surviving boy pal, Kenny, settles for rodents.

In the chillingly observed environs of a Glasgow housing project, which because of a strike is drowning in its own garbage, even innocent play can turn deadly for both rodents and boys. Kenny ties his mouse's tail to a balloon; the resulting aerial execution reminds a viewer of the more predictably-grounded child universe in films like *My Life as a Dog*. But film school-trained Ramsay isn't out to show us the usual comforting muddle of pathos, whimsy, and fumbling self-discovery that is the stuff of most coming-of-age films. No, Ramsay means to tell us that in her Glasgow, a boy like James can, in any moment, simply drop off the face of the earth. In an early scene, James' other best friend, Brian, drowns in the local canal while the boys are engaged in seemingly harmless horseplay. James is not linked to Brian's death by adults, but his own guilt deepens and festers.

It is an unbreakable rule of British "kitchen sink" films that the boy hero be painfully and irreconcilably alienated from not only his dad, but virtually all male authority figures. Thus, the only affection James receives comes when his saintly mother cleans the lice from his hair, or when he is adopted by a 14-year-old girl, Margaret Anne, whose previous encounters with boys were of a



William Eadie as James, in Lynne Ramsay's *Ratcatcher*

slutty nature. James' dad or Da is a hard-drinking, football-watching, skirt-chasing layabout whose greatest exertion is to steal change from his wife's purse to get his next pint. James' greatest fear is becoming his Da.

Cruising speed

One day, James steals from the thief and hops a city bus. As the empty double-decker cruises beyond Glasgow's stinky boundaries, James glimpses the unsullied Scottish countryside — what the poet may have been hinting at in the anthem to Britain's New Jerusalem known in heart of every British schoolboy. Getting off the bus, James discovers a half-finished cluster of townhouses, with brand-spanking-new appliances. Climbing into a plastic-wrapped bathtub, the boy tries to both banish his guilt and dream a whole new future for his family, a future as boundless as the golden-brown fields of wheat beyond the kitchen window.

Ramsay's *Ratcatcher* confines its observations about James' world to things the children themselves might hear, see or feel. Director of Photography Alwin

Kuchler's fluid camera frequently hovers at a 12-year-old's line of sight. A largely nonprofessional young cast, featuring preteen schoolboy William Eadie as James, gives a documentary sense of reality to the brutish playtime of Glasgow's Dead End Kids. First-time actor Eadie is a natural, able to carry reels of screentime with merely a look or gesture, and yet when the time comes, also able to scream convincingly at his TV-addled Da, "I hate football!" Eadie also contributes to the age-old mystery of why British lads are heir to sexy Dumbo ears.

The filmmaker shrewdly employs subtitles to render clear and poetic the mostly impenetrable Scottish urban slum slang. When a TV reporter is allowed to speak without subtitles, we see afresh the prison of class-bound language. *Ratcatcher* is a prime example of what film schools aspire to from their graduates — life captured in a visual poetic language rendering James a universal slum-child Ulysses. ▼

Ratcatcher opens Friday, Feb. 16 at the Lumiere.

Labor of love Wong Kar-Wai's Hong Kong mood piece

by Robert Julian

In the *Mood for Love* is a little picture, in more ways than one. Set in 1962 Hong Kong, this story of thwarted romance takes place in tiny rooms, back alleys, and on narrow, vertiginous stone stairways that never seem to receive light. Writer/director Wong Kar-Wai (*Happy Together*) brings together two attractive stars, Tony Leung (who played the homosexual lover in *Happy Together*) and Maggie Cheung (*Irma Vep*, *Chinese Box*) as neighbors whose spouses are having an affair.

Mrs. Chan (Cheung) and her husband rent a room in a flat next door to Mr. Chow (Leung) and his wife. Both couples live in tiny, cramped quarters, sharing kitchen and bathroom facilities with others who live in their flat. When Mr. Chow discovers that his wife is having an affair with Mr. Chan, he approaches Mrs. Chan with the information.



Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung are in *The Mood for Love*

United in their betrayal, the two begin to meet secretly and find they have a great deal in common. Emotionally drawn to each other, they are determined "not to be like them," and the pattern for romantic frustration is firmly established.

In the *Mood for Love* is beautifully filmed, and William Chang's production and costume designs are exquisite. As lovers thwarted by the social constraints of their time, Mr. Chow and Mrs. Chan's story could have been written by Edith Wharton. Both principal characters suffer from the same culturally induced emotional paralysis Wharton portrays in both *The Age of Innocence* and *The House of Mirth*. In a wonderfully evocative and dissonant touch, the director uses Nat King Cole Spanish-language romance songs of the period to underscore the longing of his two central characters. At the end of this bittersweet film, some viewers will feel frustrated — and the degree of frustration the audience feels may be in direct correlation to the filmmaker's success. ▼

In the Mood for Love, in Cantonese with subtitles, opens Friday, Feb. 16 at the Clay.

TELEVISION

The house of mirth

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Watching TV these days, one might think Bill Clinton were still President. The Republican passion for trashing Clinton remains insatiable, and the media can't get enough. The three major networks have instituted versions of what NBC News calls *The Clinton Watch* — daily reports at the top of the evening news on what Clinton is doing and what the Republicans think about it.

If we believed conspiracy theories, we just might think the focus on Clinton is a Republican ploy to deflect attention from all the damage the Bush Administration has been doing in its first few weeks. But it could simply be habit — the Republicans and the media just can't seem to stop their loathe affair with Clinton.

Activist filmmaker Michael Moore put it succinctly on *Politically Incorrect* last week. Moore said, "People are focusing on \$600,000 for Clinton's office when there are millions being given away daily in corporate welfare by the Republicans. Is the press so lazy that they have to focus on Clinton's office? They have a target — he's in the White House. He didn't win the election, he's illegitimate."

When the media wasn't focusing on Clinton, their attention was on Ronald Reagan, who celebrated his 90th birthday last week. Reagan, whose relationship with wife Nancy has been deified by NBC's Tom Brokaw in repeated interviews with the former First Lady, was lauded from NBC to PBS for everything from simple wit to single-handedly ending the Cold War (a deed which Kennedy, Nixon and Gorbachev had far more influence over).

Bill Maher, whose *Politically Incorrect* was in Washington all last week, noted of the Reagan kudos: "It was Bill Clinton who actually *did* the things that Reagan only talked about — eliminating the deficit and creating welfare reform." Maher added that it would

kill Republicans to admit that.

Maher had a stellar list of guests on *PI* all week, including Sen. Joe Lieberman, who was funny and — despite the amnesiac lovefest between Democrats and Dubya — unafraid to attack the new Administration. Conversely, Ralph Nader, whom Maher described as "the man who made Al Gore cry," was just as tedious as he'd been during the presidential campaign. Sharing the stage with Moore and two congressional conservatives, he barely spoke, and when he did, only argued that Clinton should have an office in a federal building. And they called Gore wooden?

Meanwhile, the conservatives had much to share. Rep. Billy Tauzin

(R-Louisiana) went on and on about how terrible Clinton was, but had no answer to Maher's question about how invading the Alaskan Wilderness Preserve would solve the energy crisis in California. This would be less problematic if Tauzin weren't chair of the Energy committee.

Scariest guest, however, was Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Florida), with the dubious distinction of being the first Republican Cubana in Congress. When she wasn't touting her rabid anti-choice agenda and bashing Clinton (it's a fixation), she was making barely veiled anti-Semitic comments about Jews and the Florida election results ("They can fill out lottery tickets and play five bingo cards at once, but they can't do a butterfly ballot?")

We enjoyed Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Cal) of the Congressional Black Caucus sticking it to the Republicans. One query after her conservative opponent lauded Reagan yet again: "Why has so much — airports, buildings, bridges — been named after Reagan, and nothing after LBJ, who signed the civil rights law?"

And we *always* love Barbara Boxer, who is so smart and so able to best her opposition. Former Congressman-turned-right-wing-talk-show-host Bob Dornan is as

homophobic as ever, and hates Clinton more than even blacks, Jews, queers and the Latina who ousted him from office. We did appreciate his assertion that he wasn't a racist and the Ku Klux Klan has targeted him for assassination.

Comedian Jay Thomas queried, "What did they do, tie your hood real tight around your neck?"

Jock tossed

Washington: a creepy hybrid of *The Mole*, *Survivor* and *Temptation Island*. Speaking of reality TV, *The Mole* has now cast out all its people of color and our pick for Mole, the self-proclaimed queer jock, Jennifer Biondi.

Meanwhile, the butchy retired police officer Maralyn "Mad Dog" Hershey got axed from *Survivor*, effectively removing all the older competitors from the Outback. When she appeared the morning after on CBS's *Early Show*, she wore a red cowboy hat and sang her own *Survivor*-inspired song to the audience in a bizarre Auntie Mame moment.

San Francisco's own survivor from the first show, Stacy Stillman, is suing, claiming the show was rigged and she was booted off early. To which we say, with her intolerable carping and whining, she should be lucky she wasn't eaten like the larval creature she is. So she didn't win, boo hoo. She got national notoriety — unfortunately, her terrible personality was on display worldwide. That isn't something to sue over, it's something to get therapy for.



Amber, Mitchell, Tina, and Keith on *Survivor: The Australian Outback*

CBS execs need similar therapy. They pulled David Letterman's list of Top Ten reasons to sue CBS. Lighten up, kids.

Someone who *never* takes herself too seriously is the marvelous Dolly Parton. On *Conan O'Brien*, she wore a totally amazing outfit which defies description, and explained when O'Brien complimented her on the extreme sexiness of her dress, "I patterned my look after the town tramp." On whether she had tried the water rides at her newest theme park, she laughed, pointed to her outrageous breasts and said, "Oh no — Moses parted the water. Can you imagine what these would do?" She added, "I'd be afraid my wig would fall off, my make-up would run, and these [her breasts] would fall out." She's so fabulous.

Unlike Sinead O'Connor, who appeared on *The Tonight Show* in her traditional crewcut (isn't that look over yet?) and a silver evening dress, under which she was obviously stark naked. Her

nipples could have put someone's eye out. No mention of her new lesbianism. She discussed her tongue-piercing and how it helps with elocution. We'll take your word for that, dear.

Smart dykes

Speaking of lesbians, we are so loving *All My Children's* storyline. Mom Erica paid Bianca's dyke pal, Rain, \$10,000 to leave town. But then Bianca's beloved Sarah left her husband and ran to Bianca. We can't remember a lesbian storyline lasting this long on TV — it's now outdone *Ellen*. Smart, sensitive and really honest.

Meanwhile, NBC's *ER* entered sweeps month with Laura Innes' character Carrie deciding perhaps she wasn't quite so straight after all. We like the uncertainty with which she handled her first lesbian experience. And perhaps only lesbians would have noticed the subtle sexual statement when Carrie briefly sniffed her fingers as she

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Painter among poets

Joe Brainard at Berkeley Art Museum

by Michael McDonagh

New York's Museum of Modern Art can be a colorful place. And it certainly was when I visited it several years ago and saw a woman and her two gay friends avidly taking it in. After looking at a show of "important" art, they went to the print galleries and stopped in front of a silkscreen of Marilyn Monroe. In an awestruck voice, the woman opined, "Whatever he does, you still know it's Andy." As in Warhol.

New York artist Joe Brainard, whose first-ever retrospective is now on view at the Berkeley Art Museum, never had that problem. He lacked a signature style, and that can be a drawback, especially in America, where success often means doing the same thing again and again, and artists like LeRoy Neiman, Peter Max, or more high-toned ones like Jasper Johns and Jim Dine have certainly done that. Surprise is almost out of the question. But Brainard's strong suit was precisely that, surprise. And though it's sad that this artist, who was born in 1942 and died from AIDS in 1994, is just getting the full treatment, he was always an open secret in the New York art world. Like the poet Frank O'Hara, he also seems to have had many artist friends who were also his collaborators. And these projects are certainly some of the most interesting accomplishments of his protean talent.

But Brainard didn't stop there, and the BAM show has about 150 examples of his output, which ranges from collages and assemblages to paintings and drawings. Fully a fifth of these come from the collection of his partner, Kenward Elmslie, who's a publisher, poet and the librettist of many American operas, including ones by Jack Beeson (*Lizzie Borden*) and Ned Rorem (*Miss Julie*).

Brainard was equally diverse, and used and quoted many different styles which, I suppose, makes him a postmodern. Sure, he had enormous facility, but what really distinguishes his work is its easy, unforced grace. Even painstakingly constructed mixed-media collages like "Blossom" (1977) look effortless, and so do his 1972 series of gouaches based on Ernie Bushmiller's cartoon character Nancy. "If Nancy Was A Boy" — she raises her skirt to reveal guess what? — and "If Nancy Was André Breton At 18 Months" — her head pasted on the baby picture of the father of Surrealism — are two of the funniest.

Fruit mix

Some of the oddest and most original pieces are those done with Brainard's poet friends. The 1964 collage "Have You Seen Dr. Strangelove Yet? It's Quite Articulate, Very Fine," for example, shows Jimmy Cricket saying just that (the words are Frank

O'Hara's) to a suitably querulous bug, the image inset, framed by old-time Christmas wrapping paper. The ink-on-collage "Untitled (Cherries)" (1964) mixes packing-crate pictures of the fruit with O'Hara's completely unrelated French text. The artist's collaboration with Ron Padgett, "The Sky Book" (1965), is a collage of delicate and evocative images. There's even some homoerotic content, hunks wearing nothing but sky-blue skivvies. And speaking of hunks, there's O'Hara's comic-book sendup, "Red Rydler and Dog" (1964), with its deadpan text, "One of the real reasons Red wanted to leave Palo Alto was that he had developed a bad habit of writing mash notes to other cowboys!" — and this is just an excerpt!

Brainard also designed covers for three of John Ashbery's poetry books — the 1970 reprint of *Some Trees* (1956), *Three Plays* (1978) and *The Vermont Notebook*

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Charmian Carr

◀ Arts cover

Maria are in the gazebo and they've decided they're going to be married, and the Captain very gently touches her nose with his finger, and their comment was — and I mean, they stand up and scream their comments — "Get the booger, Captain."

At the Castro premiere, a sold-out benefit for Frameline, no one was quite so well-prepared. Some comments were only audible to surrounding theatergoers, so there would be pockets of laughter erupting from different parts of the auditorium. There was a lot of hissing of the Nazis and of the sotti-bitchy Baroness, stomping of feet whenever the von Trapp children marched into a room, and derisive laughter at the movie's primary-

colors approach to storytelling.

And, of course, there is the sing-along. Subtitled lyrics appear whenever anyone on screen sings a note, even when the nuns are chanting in Latin. At the Castro, the singing was hearty, and everyone waved the supplied plastic sprigs of edelweiss during that song's misty-eyed performance, and then fired off their party poppers when the Captain and the Maria finally kiss.

Pre-screening instructions are included in a warm-up offered by local personalities Trauma Flintstone and Connie Champagne in scripted banter that could use some editing, not to mention some rehearsal. It was a loooooong evening.

As might be expected at the Castro Theatre, and at a benefit for an organization that presents the gay and lesbian film festival, the crowd was largely gay. But, ac-



If Nancy Was André Breton at Eighteen Months, by Joe Brainard, 1972



Charmian Carr today

cording to Carr, that's been true wherever she's seen *Sing-a-Long Sound of Music*.

"I had a wonderful comment in Austin," she said. "They said to me, 'You know, we always used to love Judy Garland, and then there was Bette Midler, but now we love Liesl.' I take that as a great honor. I'm in really good company."

Amazingly, Carr had no acting credits, and really no acting ambitions, when she was cast as Liesl after a fluke audition. But she obviously acquitted herself nicely.

She succeeded, she thinks, "because I didn't know any better. I had no idea what a grand film they were making. I didn't know who Julie Andrews was. I had never heard of Christopher Plummer or Robert Wise. There was nobody I was afraid of."

Filming was a happy, family-like experience, although Plummer, as Capt. von Trapp, rigorously avoided interacting with his

screen children when the camera wasn't rolling. "He doesn't like kids," Carr said. "He doesn't like his own kid."

Julie Andrews was playful and helpful during filming, but while the actors who played the von Trapp children formed a lifelong bond, Andrews quickly moved on. "She has just pushed us away as far as possible," Carr said, offering an off-the-record story to confirm her contention.

Carr stayed under contract with 20th Century Fox for several years after *The Sound of Music*, but the studio mainly used her to promote the movie around the world. She decided to give up acting after she married Jay Brent in 1966 and turned to interior decorating.

"I think the reason I married Jay is that he had the courage to ask me out," Carr said, recalling how her one big screen credit proved more a detriment than an asset as a dating magnet. Brent and Carr divorced in 1991 after 24 years of marriage and raising two daughters.

"Since then I've had a couple of relationships that haven't worked out," Carr said.

Does she think her enduring association with the virginal Liesl remains a roadblock when it comes to men? "Yeah," Carr said, "and it's a bummer." ▼

Sing-a-Long Sound of Music will run at the Castro Theatre through March 1. Tickets are \$20 and \$22.50. Call (510) 601-TWEB.

Charmian Carr, left, as Liesl, with Julie Andrews and the von Trapp children in *The Sound of Music*



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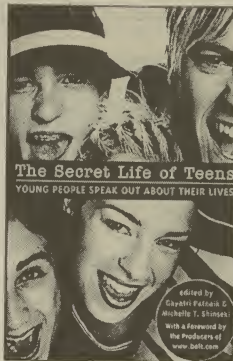
BOOKS

Teens, twenties, and all that jazz

by Deborah Peifer

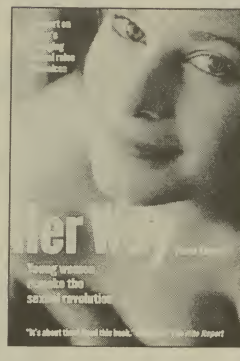
The very long list of facts about my life for which I am appreciative includes the happy truth that I am no longer a teenager. Also on the list, that I am no longer in my twenties. Of course, I'm no longer in my thirties or forties, but those statistics are on another list altogether. A pair of new books explores the uncertainty, anguish, and worse of that awful period known as young adulthood. What makes each especially valuable is that we get to hear the voices of those teens and twentysomethings, not, as is all too customary, the condescending voices of the elders who did the interviewing or editing. *The Secret Life of Teens: Young People Speak Out About Their Lives* (edited by Gayatri Patnaik and Michelle T. Shinseki; HarperSanFrancisco, \$12.95) and *Her Way: Young Women Remake the Sexual Revolution* (by Paula Kamen; NYU Press, \$25.95) are suggested reading for the young, but obligatory reading for those elders who have any desire to reach across the chasm that divides young and old.

The Secret Life of Teens will break your heart. When I was a teenager, the big issue in my Catholic High School was gum. The only threat to life and limb was arriving unprepared for Sister Terecita's English class. Don't imagine for a moment that today's teenagers are experiencing what we did; don't think that "when I was your age" has any meaning whatever to kids who are faced with the brutal equation sex = death every day. A collection of letters addressed to the future, to teachers, to parents, to each of us, *The Secret Life* is filled with heart-



felt truths, starting with this staggering assertion by Steve St. Pierre: "Listen, if any 'elders' are reading this, get a clue, we're not you!" I don't think I'd be brave enough to be a teenager today. My admiration for those who contributed thoughtful, angry, funny, and moving letters to this collection is complete and entire.

Her Way is based on interviews conducted by Paula Kamen with twentysomething women who are part of a "sexual evolution," and are "taking control of their sex lives." In so doing they are moving beyond the sexual stereotypes of the more and less distant past, claiming the right to their own sexuality in ways that are powerful and empowering. These young women have no time for the rules that crippled their grandmothers, or drove their mothers to distraction. I was particularly impressed by how thoughtful and articulate these young women were, whether talking about doing it, alone or with others, not doing it,

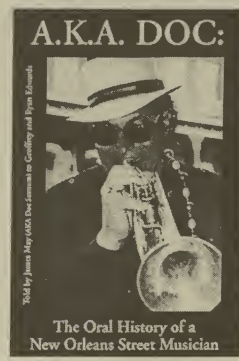


temporarily or forever, and just what they might do when they did decide to do it. They see their sexuality as "based on autonomy and choice," and that sounds revolutionary to me.

Yes, I meant jazz

Do you ever wonder just how a musician winds up playing on the street? Geoffrey and Ryan Edwards (*The Verdi Baritone*) did, and the result is the extraordinary *A.K.A. Doc: The Oral History of a New Orleans Street Musician* (told by James May, AKA Doc Saxtrum, to Geoffrey and Ryan Edwards; Cadence Jazz Books, \$15). May can be found today playing trumpet and saxophone outside the Café Du Monde in New Orleans, and his personal and musical journeys make for riveting storytelling.

I had to know just how my operatically-minded friends con-



nected with a jazz musician. Geoffrey explains, "Music has always been the very soul of New Orleans. You hear it wherever you go in the French Quarter — on the streets, in restaurants and clubs, on the cruise boats which ply the Mississippi. We have always loved the music of New Orleans and looked forward to discovering new and exciting performers each time we visited. When we first heard James May playing outside the famous Café Du Monde, however, we knew we had stumbled across a truly special performer. He was playing a medley of jazz favorites which would have been the pride of the best Bourbon Street Clubs. But there James was, standing on the sidewalk, playing to a large crowd of enthusiastic tourists and residents alike.

"We had the opportunity to chat with him on one of his

breaks, and that early conversation led to a lasting friendship which has been deepened and renewed with each of our return visits to the city. It quickly became clear to us that James' extraordinary music was the result of an equally extraordinary life. As he recounted more of his fascinating experiences, we realized that his story was one that should be shared with a wider audience. Over the course of the next couple of years and many hours of live and taped interviews, his oral history emerged in the form you are now reading." The book includes a CD featuring May performing 15 songs, including such favorites as "Closer Walk with Thee" and "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?"

Geoffrey continues, "At the request of his many fans, James has compiled his most popular numbers on several CDs which, at the moment, he makes available to the public exclusively during his live performances. The CD for *A.K.A. Doc* was specially prepared by Cadence Jazz Books from these recordings." *A.K.A. Doc* should be required reading for anyone who doubts the commitment to artistry of street performers. The rest of us can marvel at a life lived to the fullest, and enjoy some gorgeous music at the same time. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

Book Report

Husband material

by Jim Piechota

Finding Your Leading Man by Jon P. Bloch, Ph.D.; St. Martin's Press/GriFFin, \$13.95

Although gay marriage (and visiting the sleepy state of Vermont) is an enticing idea, the thought of meeting and forming a relationship with a loving, faithful man remains the stuff of dreams for many. With no rings, no roses, and no box of chocolates, many gay men are made to feel less than socially adequate by simply enjoying their own single status. Enter the Ph.D.s, the Love Doctors, the sex therapists who line bookstore shelves with endless parades of How-To-Find-Mr.-Right books that end up as dubiously effective as a personal ad.

Where are the comprehensive, practical books on the pleasures of being a single gay man? Heck, I may end up writing the damn thing myself.

In the meantime, we've got books like Dr. Jon Bloch's *Finding Your Leading Man*, an overarching, novel-length work of detailed matchmaking. In an attempt to keep his promise to "create male-to-male intimacy and make your relationship a blockbuster," the author employs a sometimes hu-



morous, often-risky *modus operandi*. Twelve categories are created (and described *ad nauseam*) which distinguish the characteristics of men like the Blue Collar Guy from the Sexpot, the Party Boy from the Discriminating Shopper, and the Misfit from the Shy Snob. Bloch then takes each type, mixes and matches them with each other, and grades the potential of each pairing using Ed McMahon's *Star Search* star system: five stars meaning you and your date should make it to the coveted boyfriend status semi-final round.

The fact that this book sounds

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BELASCO...in the Flesh!

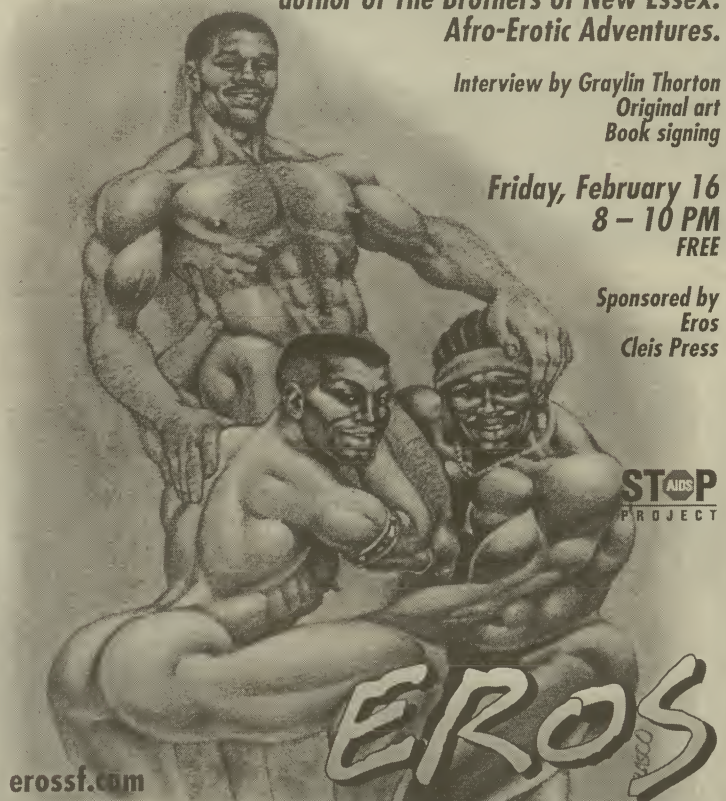
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Poor little rich boy

Gay dime-store heir courts Duchess, cuckolds Duke of Windsor

by Tavo Amador

Those who believe that money does not buy happiness will be comforted by Christopher Wilson's *Dancing with the Devil* (St. Martin's Press, \$24.95), a chronicle of the relationship between the Duchess of Windsor and dime-store heir Jimmy Woolworth Donahue. According to Wilson, the flamboyantly gay Donahue and the former Wallis Warfield Simpson were lovers during the early 1950s. She became so infatuated with him that she considered leaving the Duke, the man who had given up the throne of England to marry her, to wed Donahue, 20 years her junior, insists the author.

Additionally, Wilson says that the Duchess' biographer, Michael Bloch, raised the question of her gender. In a 1996 article, Bloch quoted Dr. John Randall, a British psychiatrist and "an expert in the differences between men and women," as stating, "I want to tell you something extraordinary... The Duchess was a man. There is no doubt of it, for I've heard the details from a colleague who examined her. She was a man." This colleague is never named, nor is a date given for this examination. Amazingly, Wilson claims that Bloch was "unable to pursue this conversation, and two years later, Randall died." But an associate of Randall's opined that he had been referring to "Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome," an unusual condition in which "a child is born genetically male with the XY chromosome, but owing to the fact that the body does not respond to the male sex hormone, it develops as a female. When they reach maturity, such women exude certain

male characteristics and have unusually strident personalities. Such people cannot bear children, and unless aided by surgery, often cannot experience sexual intercourse."

Wilson concedes that no direct proof exists that the Duchess indeed suffered from this affliction, but his book assumes she did. He again quotes Bloch as saying that it was likely that the Duke's masochism prevented penetrative sex from ever taking place between him and his wife. This may explain the Duchess' famous crack about the Duke, saying he was "not heir-conditioned." It might also support Wilson's assertion that she eventually found sexual fulfillment with the hitherto exclusively gay Donahue. Wilson hints about the sexual activity between Jimmy and the Duchess, but is unclear on the specifics.

Well. This is boudoir biography at its juiciest, but better evidence regarding the more sensational aspects of the story would be welcome. At least one source is cited for the Duke's proclivities. Ullick Alexander, identified only as "a courtier," told biographer Philip Ziegler that the Duke enjoyed "the sexual perversion of abasement" and liked being frightened by his wife. This is plausible. Jimmy Donahue's open homosexuality is also well-documented, and it is true that for a few years he and the Duchess were quite intimate and spent nights alone together when the Duke was in England visiting his family. Wilson refers to testimony that suggests sexual intimacy, and considerable evidence exists supporting an infatuation between Donahue and Wallis.

But Wilson fails to address the Duchess' sexual relations with her two previous husbands. Biographers have suggested that her first



Jimmy Woolworth Donahue, center, with the Windsors

marriage ended because her husband was physically abusive. The second ended when she began her campaign to wed the King and become Queen of England, succeeding only in the former. What kind of sex life did she have with these two men? No one knows, but if she really was "a man," surely one of them would have noticed, and it would have affected their marriage.

Strings attached

Wilson is on much more solid ground documenting the sad tale of Donahue, which was similar to the tragic life of his first cousin, Barbara Hutton. Unlike his cousin, whose fortune came both from their Woolworth grandfather and her father, the founder of the E.F. Hutton brokerage firm, Jimmy did not have a great deal of money himself. The purse strings were controlled by his mother Jessie Woolworth Donahue, who spent a fortune unsuccessfully trying to crash old money circles. Jimmy's father was not a great social catch and was bisexual.

Jimmy was the second of two boys born to the Donahues. Indulged, lazy, sent to the best schools but an indifferent student, he grew up handsome, charming, superficial, and quite open about his sexuality, although he was cir-

cumspect around his mother. He and cousin Barbara, a serial monogamist with seven husbands, were close. Curiously, Wilson mentions Jimmy's relationship with many of Barbara's spouses, but is silent about his feelings for one of them, the bisexual Cary Grant, the only one who refused any alimony or financial settlement.

Wilson also shows that Donahue and his mother spent huge sums on the Windsors, who greedily sought the hospitality and generosity of others. But Wilson implies this was done out of necessity, which is not true. The Duke received a handsome allowance from the British government, and kept the considerable

proceeds from the sale of properties he had owned outright in his homeland. Additionally, the French government allowed the Windsors to live in an elegant mansion in the Bois de Boulogne for a minuscule fee. But the Duke was tight-fisted, preferring to spend his money only on his wife, while social arrivistes footed the bill for their entertainment.

Donahue and the Duchess eventually tired of each other. They argued, and a drunken Jimmy kicked her viciously in the shins. He would then tell unflattering stories about her to friends. They eventually reconciled, but never resumed their friendship.

This curious story is set in the gilded watering holes of the rich: New York, Paris, Biarritz, Monte Carlo, Palm Beach. The cast of celebrities is impressive: in addition to Hutton, we have glimpses of Doris Duke, Elsa Maxwell, Cecil Beaton, Marjorie Merriweather Post, Montgomery Clift, Libby Holman, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Truman Capote, various Vanderbilts, and Lupe Velez, who starred in a revue Donahue produced during his unsuccessful foray into show business. Few of these people, however, seem very pleasant, and fewer still were happy.

Donahue died in 1966 of an overdose of Seconal and alcohol in his mother's posh Fifth Avenue apartment. He was 51. Earlier, one of his boyfriends had died under similar circumstances in Hawaii. According to Wilson, many of Donahue's café society acquaintances refused to discuss him. Others called him evil and vindictive. Some referred to his charm and generosity.

Wilson's chronicle of his life is entertaining, if superficial. But then, so was his subject. ▼

Ballet Preljocaj

◀ page 31

This is a hard-nosed guy, and he won't let you forget it. On the other hand, his speed doesn't kill, it invigorates. The highlight was a dance for six men and three chairs that was exhilarating, exciting, dangerous and homoerotic all at once. (This piece could easily be excerpted for an SFB gala, though Helgi might not want to risk his guys in such a high-octane endeavor.) They throw the chairs, sit on each other's laps, vault, slide,

crash. One guy's pants keep coming down to reveal his Pop-Art underwear, but it happened so fast I thought I dreamed it. Sensational.

The other dance I really liked was the gorillas, three of them, big and stupid and lumbering, put through their gorilla paces by a fourth, slightly brighter gorilla. At first it seemed fey and silly, but as it went on, great pathos was generated by the poor beasts, especially the one who kept scratching his head in perplexity. That was the only sweet moment in a harsh but not unrewarding evening. Unless you came for the dicks. ▼

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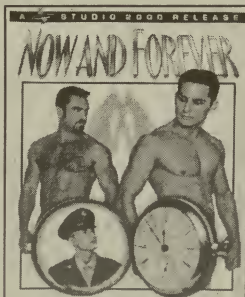
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BOOKS

Mr. Miss

by Robert Julian

Christine Jorgensen, *A Personal Autobiography* by Christine Jorgensen; Cleis Press, \$14.95

She wasn't the first, but she certainly made the most waves. In May 1950, former G.I. George Jorgensen arrived in Denmark on a journey of self-discovery. On February 13, 1953, the surgically altered Jorgensen, now known as "Christine," stepped off a plane at New York's Idlewild Airport and into the history books. Over 300 reporters were waiting for their photo-op. By the end of 1953, Christine Jorgensen, the American male-to-female transsexual, had become the subject of more print stories than any other person that year.

Cleis Press is reissuing the late Jorgensen's autobiography, originally penned in 1967, with a new introduction by Susan Stryker. As Stryker points out, the writing is pretty tame, especially when compared to the personal life of the male photographer turned female cabaret performer. But it's clear from Jorgensen's words that she

not only wanted to show how she pioneered this type of sex change, but to illuminate the emotional and physical prison she endured as a woman trapped in a man's body.

Christine describes George Jorgensen as a thin, effeminate young man with underdeveloped genitalia and a tendency toward unrequited crushes on heterosexual men. But as much as George was drawn to men, the thought of a homosexual liaison was repellent to him. Jorgensen began an independent study of the effect of hormones on the human body and psyche, and he eventually contacted physicians who were doing early work in the field of sex reassignment. Convinced he was more female than male, he went to Denmark to stay with distant relatives; after two-and-a-half years of treatments and two operations, George was Christine.

The product of a conservative upbringing, Christine was unprepared for the storm of controversy that arose when reporters unearthed the story. Christine Jorgensen became a celebrity overnight, and she was granted just as much respect as Monica



Christine Jorgensen

Lewinsky. The conservative tone of the 1950s made Jorgensen into a freak; she was a *cause célèbre*, but mostly she was a joke. When you see how difficult it was for Jorgensen to retain her equilibrium, you understand why she wrote an autobiography that is extremely conservative in tone. There are no references whatsoever to Christine Jorgensen's sex life, or any real indication that she had one at all.

Jorgensen's notoriety forced her into the world of entertainment. People wanted to see her, and she had to create a venue for herself that made that possible. It was, for years, nightclub and cabaret shows, with some legitimate theater toward the end of her life. Jorgensen died of cancer, 22 years after she penned this autobiography. But anyone who reads the reissued text will come away with a great deal of admiration for a woman who had the courage to chart her own course and sail through the toughest of storms. ▼

Matthias Goerne

◀ page 33

Eric Schneider. His just-released first opera aria recital, which includes a version of Wagner's "Song to the Evening Star" from *Tannhauser* that rivals if not surpasses the greatest, will be followed by the release of a four-singer version of Mahler's *Der Knaben Wunderhorn* with the Concertgebouw and Chailly; *Die Schöne Müllerin* with Eric Schneider; and, later on, *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang* with Brendel.

Secure bonds

Of the artists he has collaborated with, he is most pleased with his relationships with accompanist Schneider and the conductors Chailly and Dohnanyi. "With both," he explained, "I am so secure. It is so easy to work with them. There is no problem; it is unnecessary to talk about the music. They have the scores, and I have the scores, and we do a concert. It's really a blind date."

Goerne also enthused about a "fantastic moment" four years ago, when he twice sang a concert version of Wagner's *Tannhauser* with Deborah Voigt, James Conlon conducting. "It was really beautiful. Deborah Voigt was so

great." Alas, this performance was only captured in a private recording made for the artists.

Though Goerne considers Mozart and Bach the greatest of composers, the one who remains most important to his career is Schubert. In the operatic repertoire, he finds himself most interested in Monteverdi and Wagner. ("It's weird. I've never sung Monteverdi, but I'm listening to him a lot. I think I will do it.") Now that his voice can handle somewhat heavier repertoire than before, he feels ready to occasionally sing the roles of Amfortas and Kurvenal.

As evidenced by his San Francisco recitals, Goerne also plans to continue exploring the lesser-known song repertoire. "We have so many pieces," he explained, "and so much fantastic, unknown repertoire — unknown for me as well as the audience — that it makes sense to offer it to the audience. It doesn't make sense to always do the same things again and again. It's too boring for me."

For the foreseeable future, Matthias Goerne's main focus will remain the concert repertoire and "all the beautiful songs. This is what I prefer," he explains in the same voice that weds strength with gentleness. "All my love is connected with this kind of repertoire." ▼

Leading Man

◀ page 37

like a fun party game idea may be where the author strayed off course in trying to market this book as a serious self-help aid. Bloch's crisp, satirical writing combined with brazen pigeonholing lends itself more to impracticality than useful mentoring. The best sections feature hilariously disastrous couplings of the one-star variety, like the Creature of Habit who finds the Hyper-Romantic man to be a "clingy, over-emotional nuisance," while the Misfit and the Nice Boy will "probably get bored, if not angry, quickly," along with the "comical disaster" of matching the Perennial Closet Case with the Therapy Junkie.

Less successful sections of the

book instruct readers on "how to change" their behavior in order to better their chances of finding a mate. A "what needs work" category is as grating as Bloch's use of the term "internalized homophobia" as a therapeutic crutch. More useful are the poignant, insightful final chapters that serve as a touch-up course in Love 101, the basics of searching, finding, understanding, and maintaining a loving relationship.

Stereotypical and pandering though it may seem at times, there is a ton of fun (implied or not) to be had here, as long as readers don't take the book too seriously. Its inventiveness, alluring cover art, and pliable paperback format will make *Finding Your Leading Man* easy to toss from one single party guest to the next, all giggling at the notion of this mysterious, elusive thing called love. ▼

Dead cool

by Jim Provenzano

Blood, Snow, & Classic Cars, Mystery Stories by Joseph Hansen; Leyland Publications, \$16.95

Joseph Hansen writes some of the best mystery fiction around, with gay themes through most of his over 20 books. His novels *Nightwork*, *Fadeout*, *A Smile in His Lifetime* and *Jack of Hearts*, set in WWII-era Hollywood, include gay characterizations of clear humanity.

In some of them, people die. Not mysteriously, not with darting shadows, but with probable cause, simple questions, and inevitable or stunning endings.

His detectives in some of the six stories in *Blood, Snow, & Classic Cars* have names like Shattuck and Bohannon, men comfortable in their task, despite snowdrifts and gossiping locals, even if the corpse in question is one of the not-liked older eccentric gay men in a small rural town.

These stories may have been part of other series. All have been previously published in *Ellery Queen* and *Alfred Hitchcock* mystery magazines.

There is an abruptness that brackets these tales. It's like coming in on an episode of *Quincy* you already sort of know, but it's nice to go along for the short investigation, because one question always leads to another.

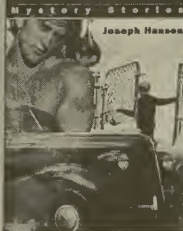
Some of the short pieces are a bit too abrupt, as if we're expected to have our wits about us, or be familiar with the already established characters. Descriptions are brief, characterization more understood than indulged.

Hansen's mystery-solvers sometimes get within spitting distance of the suspects, only to be proven right later, but with an unexpected twist, as in the title piece.

Some of the narrators aren't exactly crime-solvers. "Son of the Morning" is more of a novella throughout a married couple's lives. A handsome actor, their longtime friend, serves as a man only gradually revealed as gay, with a supposedly lurid past in the cinema.

But don't expect sexy models or sex. Ignore the cheesy Photo-shop cover art. Real fiction lies beneath. ▼

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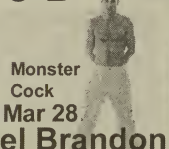
1 Mar 7
Chad Hunt
Monster
Cock



Jay Ross
8 Mar 14



15 Mar 21
Marco Rossi



Monster
Cock
22 Mar 28
Michael Brandon

Saturday Night
whore d'oeuvres
24 Feb 9 pm
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Nudie Beads Free
Feather Masks Boas
Beers Wine
FAVORS AND Other Surprises

Deacon
22 Feb 28
22 Feb 28

OUT & ABOUT



Tao is Now: Taosim and the Arts of China. See Wednesday.

Calendar by Jim Provenzano

Body shop

Ever since homo sapiens drew on walls, the human body has always been a primal subject matter for artists. But only recently have women been given credit for artwork about the female form.

SF Camerawork's latest exhibition, *Flesh*, finds the human body taking on various carnal interpretations, from Jeanne Friscia's lavish color photographs of mammalian flesh to Jenny Rosenberg's meat sculptures of human growth stages, bringing new meaning to the term "Happy Meal." Tina Wolfe's polyurethane "skin" curtains may recall *Silence of the Lambs*' grisly props, while Heather Sparks magnifies the textures of skin and hair to create science fiction landscapes. If you have dinner plans beforehand, you might want to leave steak off the menu.

Camerawork's first exhibition at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folson St., offers an opening reception Thursday Feb. 22 5-7:30 p.m., and runs through March 24. 863-1001. www.sfcamerawork.org

Delving deeper inside the human body in search of artistic truth, playwright Eve Ensler's acclaimed Off-Broadway hit, *The Vagina Monologues*, continues its run as "a bona fide phenomenon" (*NY Times*). Brazenly exploring the humor, power, pain and wisdom found between women's legs, the show's ever-changing celebrity cast now includes pop icons of local, cable and syndicated fame.

Comedian Marga Gomez adds another feather in her large cap by joining the cast. Vicki Lawrence, whose regular appearances on *The Carol Burnett Show* and its spin-off *Mama's Family* made sitcom TV bearable, also performs in the vaginal update. Rounding off the new celebs is Broadway icon and Oscar winner Rita Moreno. While older gay fans cherish her Anita in *West Side Story*, HBO viewers patiently enjoy her thespian talents between waiting for another hot shower scene on the prison drama *Oz*.

The new cast of *The Vagina Monologues* runs only through Sunday, Feb. 18, at its new venue, Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St. \$35-50. 8 p.m. Call 433-9500 for tickets.

For those in search of more than one naughty bit, New York artist Laura Paris' motorized flying hermaphroditic genitalia sculptures take the body into third gender dimensions, and are right at home at Good Vibrations, San Francisco's educational sex shop. Meet the artist at an 8 p.m. reception Wed., Feb. 21 at Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia St. (974-8985). Another sexy exhibit of works by Tony De Bone and sex industry performance artist extraordinaire Annie Sprinkle, titled *Sex, Bombs and Bombshells*, continues at the Berkeley store, 2504 San Pablo Ave. (510) 841-0171. www.goodvibes.com. ▼

Fri 16

Castro Theatre

Fa's a note that follows So in "The Sing-A-Long Sound of Music" the interactive subtitled version of the Von Trapp family's musical rise to fame and Nazi persecution. If Julie Andrews can't sing, we might as well. Thru Mar 1. \$20-22.50. 7:30pm, Sat & Sun. matinees at 2pm. Castro at Market info/tix: 510) 601-TWEB. www.singalonga.com

Brava Theater Center

"StopKiss," Diana Son's Obie Award-winning play, deftly explores the identity crisis faced by two women before and after being attacked on a New York street. \$12-30. 8pm. Thru Mar. 11. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (at York) 392-4400. www.brava.org

Exit Theatre

"Girlesque, an 8 1/2 Woman, One Man Show," brings drag to multiple personalities as created by writer/performer Sean Owens. \$15. 8pm. Fri. & Sat. Thru Mar. 3. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy at Mason. 255-2066 www.seanowens.com.

New Conservatory Theatre

"Personal Instrument" a one-man play with three variations on queer rockers in music, is written and performed by actor/guitarist David Hanbury, who has an "invitingly sexy energy" (BAR). \$17-22. 8pm. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave., lower lobby. 861-8972.

Next Stage

"Crouching Pussy, One-Eyed Dragon," could describe the new First Family, who will no doubt be topics of derision at this evening of improv and sketch comedy. \$10-15. 9pm. The Next Stage, adjacent to Trinity Church, on Gough at Bush. 704-3261. www.acteva.com/go/johnnykats

Studio 210

"La Ronde," Arthur Schnitzler's play about naughty rotating-partner, barebacking heterosexuals in fin-de-siecle Vienna, once considered scandalous, was banned in Germany, and now seems fairly quaint. Staged by Goat Island, a new theatre company. \$10-14. 8pm. Sun at 2pm. Thru Mar. 4 Studio 210, 3435 Cesar Chavez at Valencia. 641-4963. www.goatisland.org.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

"Bad Trips: New Directions in Independent Horror" includes some queerly odd entries in its short and scary collection, including Mark Hejnar's

Jeffrey Dahmer documentary, "Jeff," Carey Burt's killer dolls in "The Psychotic Odyssey of Richard Case," and Dewey Nicks' chilling "Hell House," about the infamous Colorado "Christian" haunted house (as if they weren't scary enough on their own). \$3-6. 8pm. Screening Room, YBCA, 701 Mission St. at Third. 978-2700.

Sat 17

Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," a drag cabaret hosted by Kristy Cruise, Grand Duchess XXVI of San Francisco. No cover. Shows at 10pm & midnight. 133 Turk St. (at Taylor). Info: 441-2922; www.sfdrag.com

ATA Gallery

"Omnisonic's Psy-Ops Chps," a wacky blend of vintage propaganda videos, from Sex Ed shows about bed-wetting, Information, Please!," a pseudo-WWII trainee flick, and other oddities. \$5. 8pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Magic Theatre

"Howie the Rookie," Irish playwright Mark O'Rowe's fiendishly funny two-man play, explores the high tensions of Dublin low-lives. \$25-30. 8pm. Sun. at 2:30pm. Thru Mar. 4. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. at Buchanan. 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org.

Northside Theatre Company

"The Importance of Being Earnest," Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners and cucumber sandwiches, remains as witty as ever. \$10-12. 8pm. Sun. at 3pm. Thru Mar. 4. Northside Theatre Company, 848 East William St., San Jose (408) 288-7820. www.northsidetheatre.com.

San Francisco Zoo

The "Valentine's Day Sex Tour" proves that birds do it, bees do it, even giraffes. This adults-only zoological tour (18 years and over) explains mating and courtship behaviors of an arkful of creatures, and includes champagne, truffles and other treats. \$50. 9am & 3pm. Also Sun. San Francisco Zoo, Golden Gate Park. Reservations: 753-7165.

Warfield Theatre

"Wayne Brady and Friends" should be as funny, if not funnier, than the comic's usual hijinks on "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" With his cartoonish gay and black stereotypes, his improv skills and quick-draw pop culture parodies always amuse, despite the non-PC quotient. \$23.50-27.50. 8pm. The Warfield, 982 Market. 775-7722.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

"Imitation of Christ," another in Andy Warhol's Factory offbeat low-budget productions (made somewhere between 1967-69). This trash opus revolves around a clueless hunk and the various over-acting queenly creatures who seduce, berate and admire him. Featuring Ordine, Brigid Berlin, Andrea "Whips" Feldman, Taylor Mead and the one and only Nico. \$3-6. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. 978-ARTS. www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Sun 18

Club Unique

Pop singer Sharyn Macereri sings, DJ Jorge Terez spins, hot gogo boys dance and Mardi Gras bead giveaways make this Presidents Day party worth voting for. \$10. 9pm-2am. The Usual nightclub, 400 S. 1st St., downtown San Jose. (408) 535-8677. www.papipresents.com

Culture Cache Gallery

With famous album covers for the Dead Kennedys and Oakland's Green Day, Winston Smith has become almost as much of a pop icon as the culture's subversive collage art cuts, pastes and lampoons. Cozy '50s homes ooze atomic fallout under the rug. "Winston Smith: No Turning Back! New Obscenities and Relics From the Vault" includes his trademark style, with some punk era relics and grandly new works. 2-7pm and by appt. Thru Feb. 28. Culture Cache Gallery, 731 Florida at 20th. 642-2360 www.culturecache.com or winstonsmith.com.

First Unitarian Universalist Church

Prof. Gray Brechin discusses his book "San Francisco Imperial Court," with a slide show that explores real estate manipulation in the Bay Area. Hosted by the G 40 Plus Club. Free. 2:30pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, Franklin at Geary 552-1997.

GLBT Historical Society

"AIDS: The Artist's Response," brings artists Jaime Cortez, Duane Cramer, Nancy LeMoins, Joel Hoyer and Barbi Schreiber together for a panel discussing how the epidemic is represented through their art. Also on exhibit: "One Life For Another: The Survivor's Story," Schreiber's photographic portraits of ACT UP and Queer Nation activists. Exhibit shows thru Mar. 4. Free. Panel at 2-4pm. GLBT Historical Society, 973 Market (at Sixth) 777-5455.

Noe Valley Ministry

Foxglove Ensemble performs "Small Serenade," a horn and string work composed by the one of group's founding members, Robert Ward. \$8-12. 4pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1095 Sanchez. 333-9444 www.nvcm.org.

Sundance Saloon

"The Sweetheart's Ball" promised a hot boot-stompin' country-western dance, with vocalist Lenora Almado. Proceeds benefit the Bay Area Breast Cancer Network. \$8. 6-11pm.



Fuego del Clásico: Yaelisa & Caminos Flamenco. See Thursday.

Schmaltz, sass and costumes galore

'Sing-A-Long Sound of Music' is a natural for San Francisco

by Will Shank

The skeleton in the closet of *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* is that it began life not in London's respectable West End theater district, but across the Thames as a distinctly alternative-lifestyle camp-fest during the 1999 Lesbian and Gay Film Festival at the British Film Institute.

I spoke recently by phone with Robin Baker, the chap whose brainchild the *Sing-A-Long* phenomenon was. I was somewhat tipped off to his attitude by the subject line on his initial e-mail: "*Sing-A-Long* is a rip-off!"

Will Shank: The *Sing-A-Long-Sound of Music* has enjoyed phenomenal success in many places before coming here to San Francisco. Where did this inspired idea come from?

Robin Baker: An assistant of mine had worked in Glasgow [Scotland], where they did a performance of musical numbers with sound sheets [sheet music] in retirement homes — for instance, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. They were shows put on for old people to sing along with.

When we were planning the

1999 London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the British Film Institute, I brainstormed with my co-programmer Briony Hanson to select other films whose music might work for a sing-along at the National Film Theater. We decided it should be a whole film, rather than clips. We thought the song sheets were a bad idea in the theater, because of rustling through the film.

How did you decide on *The Sound of Music*?

We were going for queer content initially, like Doris Day in *Calamity Jane*, but there was no competition for *The Sound of Music*.

It's not an obvious choice for a gay film festival. Except for the notoriously saccharine sweetness of the Rodgers and Hammerstein story and music, there's nothing specifically campy about it. How did it work for its first gay and lesbian audience?

Not specifically campy? What about the nuns? What about the trousers made of old curtains? What about Eleanor Parker?

The audience response was extraordinary. We invited the drag performance artist Ivan Cartwright to host the evening in



'Tea, a drink with jam and bread' at *The Sing-A-Long Sound of Music*.

the persona of a long-lost Von Trapp relative, Countess Candy von Floss! Candy wore an Austrian dirndl (made out of old curtains, of course) with curtain rods à la Carol Burnett. She warmed

up the audience, and there was a fancy dress competition with much of the audience dressed as their favorite characters. But the complete coup was the prize for best-dressed nun. As it turns out,

we had a real nun in the audience who came with some very straight-looking friends. Of course, she won the competition and received a standing ovation from the crowd of 500 people! ▼

Sound of Music

◀ Arts cover

style bacchanal of tasteless warm-up acts, drag queens, door prizes and the general revelry that happens when folks share a beloved cultural landmark and are hellbent on having a good time. Something like a *Slap-A-Long Mommie Dearest*.

It didn't conform to expectations. The Sunday matinee was dominated by mothers and their underage children. Only four spectators came in costume: three unshaven nuns and one lonely goatherd. Things got more Castroesque when the drag queen Mistress of Ceremonies ascended the stage wearing the legendary Von Trapp drapery-cum-play-clothes. With shades of Carol Burnett and the immortal *Went With the Wind* skit, one thick curtain rod traversed her broad shoulders and extended a foot in each direction. She breathlessly greeted us with the predictable line, "I saw this hanging in the window and just had to have it!"

We were then instructed to dig into a bag of tricks located under each seat. Inside was a card with a question mark on one side, and the ubiquitous painting of Julie running with pink pumps, giant satchel and guitar on the other. Inventory also included fake edelweiss, a swatch of fabric and party noisemakers. At various moments in the movie, we were told to sing, clap or wave edelweiss over our heads like a bunch of ninnies. After instructions for prop usage were given, and the costumed ones were paraded onstage and properly embarrassed, the movie at last began. It had been eons since I saw this old chestnut — who knew how it would look these days? Expectations were fairly low.

High/low camp

The print was gorgeous, the sound strong and clear. I came for a fest of poking fun and got an outpouring of sweet nostalgia instead. What was happening? We all came to laugh at this tower of hypoglycemia, didn't we? Well, maybe not. I was forcefully re-

minded of the high camp/low camp dichotomy that day. Even before those glorious Alps gave way to Andrews announcing that they are, in fact, alive, I was reminded of one basic fact: *The Sound of Music* is a brilliant movie. As camp, it has about as much in common with *Mommie Dearest* as *All About Eve* does with *Queen of Outer Space*.

I was caught with my cynicism down. Of course, *The Sound of Music* is gooeey, maudlin, long, and wholesome in the extreme. It was made that way. But I had forgotten just how spectacular it looks and sounds, and how powerfully it builds its emotional storytelling. Why fight it? There are far more guilty pleasures in this world. After all, there's nary a clunker in the score, with each tune worthy of your own shower interpretation. The works of nature and the works of humans have rarely been more lovingly shot.

And then there's Julie. She has proven herself to be a gauche and limited actress through the years, but how sweetly perfect she is here. That five-octave voice needs

no introduction, but her knack for comedy and deadpan delivery is a surprise all over again. No one else in the cast rises to her standard, but she and the odd mix of kids, nuns and Nazis won me over. By the time the dog bites and the bee stings, I was ready to toss the goodie bag, forget the interactive nonsense and simply revel in this masterpiece of sentimentality.

The Sound of Music began as a Broadway musical with Mary Martin, and on stage it had been a success of the second highest order, somewhere close behind unequivocal hits such as *The King and I* and *My Fair Lady*. When the film version was released in the spring of 1965, it was met with much critical flutelage. "The Sound of Mucus" sniffed one review, while others dwelt on its hokum, its plastic and sanctimonious acting, and its deeply-felt lack of realism. The mewling, artificial children got their share of critical drubbings, as did a heavily varnished Eleanor Parker as the wicked Baroness. "All that was a sugar lump on stage has, courtesy of the super-spectacular screen, become an Alp," sneered Judith Crist of *The New York Herald Tribune*.

Nobody cared what she wrote. Most critics were too busy looking at the trees to see the rich forest before them. Audiences went to this as swallows go to Capistrano. Legends arose of people seeing it every day. *The Sound of Music* became *The Sound of Money* and the #1 box-office champ in movie history. The Academy was not cowed by the critical intelligentsia when it tapped *The Sound of Music* for five awards, including Best Picture and Best Director for Robert Wise, the same guy who delivered *West Side Story* to thrilled moviegoers in 1961.

Social climbers

With 36-year hindsight, it's hard to understand why critical consensus was so nasty. *The Sound of Music* is so much more than merely saccharine. "Do Re Mi" is

one of the most fiercely well-edited songs in musical history. "Climb Every Mountain," sung with the fervor that only comes with true religious conviction, would have made a believer out of Nietzsche. Andrews' rendering of the title song is shot with an awe for scenery and voice that has never been equaled. Once she doffs those postulate rags, she reeks of sexual desire for her employer, played by a cool Christopher Plummer. Do we have here the beginnings of some interesting dysfunction? Their romance is hardly Gene Kelly-Debbie Reynolds simple. Beneath the frosting are real adults dealing with real feelings. That dance on the patio says it all, and the sadder-but-wiser Baroness knows a threat when she sees one.

The Sound of Music has never gotten enough credit for pushing the movie musical genre to new heights of maturity. The Nazis are fairly benign here, but no one had ever uttered "fascism" and "musical" in the same breath. Consider what came after Captain Von Trapp refused to join the party and the family made their dangerous escape from Austria: the failed utopia of *Camelot*, Nancy's murder and the thieving urchins in *Oliver!*, the dispossessed Jews in *Fiddler on the Roof*, the Nazi menace in *Cabaret*, and the assassination of Barbara Jean in *Nashville*. Rolfé's betrayal at the cemetery is a far cry from the easy charms of *Singin' in the Rain*, and later-day musicals owe something to the film's well-drawn storm clouds of World War II.

So go. You'll have fun. Sing your guts out, if you want. Boo the Baroness and hiss the Nazis as instructed. Come as a flibberdiggibbit, a will-o'-the-wisp, or a clown if you so desire. Chances are the Castro crowd will be a lot rowdier and more sartorially endowed than the folks in London. Is that something good? You decide. *The Sound of Music* can stand with or without any extra needle pulling thread. ▼

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Billy Hart
photo by Kent Taylor

DISCS

Poverty row panache

Edgar G. Ulmer's 'Detour' out on DVD

by Gary Morris

Edgar G. Ulmer is one of the more provocative auteurs in movie history. His provenance is impeccable in its early phases. A set designer, production designer, and/or co-director with the likes of Max Reinhardt, Murnau, Lang, and Lubitsch in the 1920s, he joined the parade of Vienna's émigré intellectuals who came to America and changed its artistic landscape. In 1934, he made the Universal classic *The Black Cat*, pushing the limits of acceptability even for that period's gruesome horror films.

A year later, he was toiling in the depths of poverty row. He began this part of his career by making bargain-basement Westerns under a pseudonym, then directed a series of cheap ethnic-market movies — Ukrainian, Yiddish, black — before moving into the phase for which he's best known: a string of stylish low-budget 1940s horror films and

noirs (*Bluebeard*, *Strange Illusion*, *Detour*, *The Strange Woman*, *Ruthless*). Ulmer's early fall from grace was probably due to his cuckolding of the son of a powerful Hollywood mogul. His well-known personal intransigence and refusal or inability to put commercial considerations over aesthetics must also have been major factors.

Ulmer may have been bitter about his change of fortune, but his extreme productivity from the mid-1930s to the early 1960s speaks of an artistic temperament engaged with even the most improbable projects, and stands as an object lesson to budding filmmakers everywhere. Most of these projects were made for tiny PRC, one of Hollywood's least luxurious studios. In the case of his unquestioned masterpiece, *Detour*, the lack of resources Ulmer suffered at PRC is reflected to powerful effect in the film itself and in the lives of his shabby, bitter, desperate characters.

Detour, now out on DVD, has one of the more convoluted plots in noir, packing a flashback struc-

ture, an extended voiceover, a cross-country trek, a possible murder and an "accidental" murder, an exchange of identities, an unforgettable femme fatale, and one of the most wretched, masochistic antiheroes ever into its 67-minute running time. The film opens in the present, with Al Roberts (Neal) an unhinged hitchhiker trying to score a ride "east." At a diner, he starts a fight with a customer who plays a jukebox tune that gives him the jitters. The song, the standard "I Can't Believe That You're in Love with Me," was once his favorite. Its reappearance in this trashy setting triggers a flood of memories that explain how the once respectable Roberts has become a pathetic bum and psychological wreck wandering along the dark highways of postwar America.

Dive through

Roberts, it seems, was once a classically trained pianist working in a New York dive where his girlfriend Sue (Claudia Drake) was a singer. When she abruptly breaks off their relationship to head for Hollywood, he decides to follow her by noir's most popular and deadly method of travel: hitchhiking. He gets to Arizona by fits and starts, and then meets Charlie Haskell, a flashy blowhard who takes him "all the way."

Typical of Roberts' increasing bad luck, Haskell dies mysteriously during the ride in a heavy rainstorm. Instead of reporting this to the police, he freaks and decides to change identities with Haskell, assuming no one will believe that he didn't kill the other man. This also, of course, gives him a nice new car and a fat bankroll, though he spends much of his voiceover pleading his innocence in everything that happens to him.

In a spectacular miscalculation, Roberts then picks up a hitchhiker, Vera (Ann Savage), who also rode with Haskell earlier, but was

thrown out for refusing his advances, though not before leaving Haskell scarred. Roberts' attraction to the netherworld represented by Vera is evident quickly: "She had a kind of beauty that's almost homely because it's so real." She instantly divines both the situation and his weakness, and becomes his hectoring conscience, making blatant threats ("If you act wise, well, mister, you'll pop into jail so fast it'll give you the bends!") and offering mock sympathy ("I'd hate to see a fellow as young as you wind up sniffin' that perfume Arizona hands out free to murderers!") in the noir mode. Their relationship spirals into a nightmare of vitriol and sadomasochism, until the ironic and violent ending where he appears to be finally free of both Vera and Haskell.

Detour was shot in a mere six days, a typical schedule for many of Ulmer's low-budget films, but it bears his distinctive stamp throughout. Even a simple scene like Sue singing is rendered with poverty-row panache, with a low Dutch angle of Sue backed up by three musicians seen only in shadow. Forced perspectives and expressionist motifs appear throughout, reinforcing the script's vision of an unpredictable, ultimately terrifying world.

Actor Tom Neal's career, like Ulmer's, was restricted mostly to B films, but unlike Ulmer, Neal wound up in similar straits to Roberts. In an eerie life-imitates-art episode, he went to prison in 1965 for six years for killing his third wife. Neal's hunky good looks, his air of wounded virility, and his skill at rendering screenwriter Martin Goldsmith's stylized, rapid-fire dialogue make him one of noir's most memorable beleaguered males, even if he does appear duplicitous or delusional

in the end. Ulmer may have been inspired, too, by the similarity of his hero to himself. Roberts is easily read as a double for the director — both men, artists living a marginalized existence in straitened circumstances.

The great Ann Savage only appears in the second half of the film, but as Vera she dominates every scene, controlling Roberts and mesmerizing the viewer with her commanding stare and hard, sharp words. Savage also manages to give this harpy a human side when she makes it clear that she's dying of tuberculosis. Savage appeared only sporadically in film in the 1940s and early '50s, but her reputation is secure on the basis of the unforgettable Vera.

Detour has always enjoyed a high reputation as one of the very best noirs, but for years it was only available in battered 16mm prints and lousy public-domain videos. The DVD, from Image Entertainment, is taken from the 35mm negative. While lacking any extras, this transfer is sharp and detailed. On the down side, it has several splicing sequences where the dialogue is truncated and in one case missing. There's occasional evidence of negative shrinkage and artifacts. Nevertheless, this is the best version around, and probably the closest we'll get (outside a rep house revival) to experiencing this classic the way Ulmer meant it to be in 1945 in its first release. ▼



7-Up, by Joe Brainard, 1962

Joe Brainard

◀ page 36

(1974), for which he did all the pictures, and which I'm sorry to say I sold years ago when I was broke. Brainard's images here of cups, dandelions, goldfish and landscapes are very fresh, and work beautifully with and against the words. "I tried to relate at certain points," he said, "but in factual ways, not in emotional ways." And this peculiarly American manner of working — we invented "cool" and heroes who can't communicate — gives his work its special charm.

There's lots of charm in his Fairfield Porter-esque landscapes, and in his well-observed paintings of his dog Whiporwill ('73-'74), which try to equal Degas' paintings of horses. But the best things in the show are Brainard's "simple" graphite-on-paper portraits of his poet and painter friends. These are

both accurate and psychologically revealing. A young Bill Berkson with long hair and a steady gaze; performance poet Anne Waldman, nude; and Alex Katz, with his unblinking intensity. And their "no comment" depth is very moving. Or, as his poet friend Ann Lauterbach says in a poem for him, "it is enough/ not to have desire/ but for how the day folds open/ small napkin/ on a wide table." Brainard shows us how big the world can be, and he does it sincerely, without any fuss. ▼

Joe Brainard: A Retrospective will be at the Berkeley Art Museum until May 27, after which it will embark on a US tour. The Berkeley stop includes two special programs, *Six Poets Read in Homage to Joe Brainard*, on March 4, and John Ashbery's solo reading on April 6. Info: (510) 642-0808, or www.bampfa.berkeley.edu.

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Image Leather

Queen Cougar returns

by Mister Marcus

As many of you already know, the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 contest takes place on Friday, March 9 at Club Townsend. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and are available at Mister S, Daddy's Bar and at Auto Erotica (AKA The Dildo Mines) at 4077 18th St. (upper level). Credit card orders can be obtained by calling 1-888-TIX-ONLY.

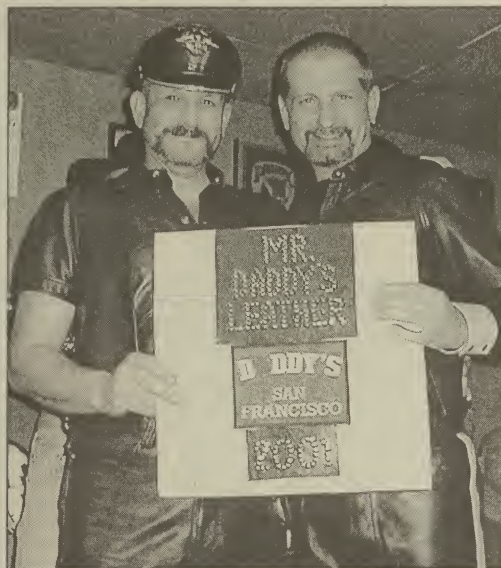
The Mr. SF Leather 2001 Contest committee announced that Ms. San Francisco Leather '93, Queen Cougar, returns to perform as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Co-chairs Glennon Sutter and Bob Brunson have a stunning show, with lots of surprises planned for the 23rd edition of one of San Francisco's most cherished institutions. Again this year, the beneficiary is the AIDS Emergency Fund, so besides being imbued with leather pride, you are supporting this worthwhile agency.

The judges for this year's competition have been invited and will be announced right here in the March 1 issue of the BAR, but besides the outgoing Mr. San Francisco Leather Lance Gear as the head judge, the Chief Judge at IML 2001, Thom Dombkowski, will be on the panel.

Make your plans now and get your tickets. There is, as always, a lot of out-of-town interest in this contest, and tickets are going fast.

Patch watch

Last Wednesday, three men stepped forward to compete for the Mr. Daddy's Leather 2001 title: Jonathan Chanel, Chris Ross and Bob Snyder — a formidable



Chris Ross (left) was chosen Mr. Daddy's Leather 2001 at the bar last Wednesday, Feb. 7, shown here with Rob Esmond, last year's holder of the title. Ross will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 title on March 9.

group for which I was pleased to act as judge, along with Glennon Sutter, André English, and outgoing Mr. Daddy's Leather Rob Esmond. The contestants went through the usual paces: interview, leather image, and formal leather with questions onstage and jock wear. Donna Sachet stepped in at the last minute to emcee when the original emcee was unable to. Nice crowd on hand with lots of enthusiasm for their favorite candidate, and Daddy Philip Turner, recovering from his

recent health setback, was there, too. It was a fun night, but when the tallies were counted, the handsome Chris Ross emerged to win the title patch and will compete for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 title in March. Chris was the Australian Leather Daddy in 1994 and has lived in San Francisco and been a leather "regular" for a long time.

The next night, five men made a bid for the Mr. April 2002 spot on the SOMA bare chest calendar at the Powerhouse. Good crowd and lots of enthusiasm for contestants John Caldera, Greg Graziani,

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend Feb. 16-18

In Chicago, at the world-famous Cell Block, it's Leatherfest 2001 with the Mr. Cell Block Leather contest on Saturday night, a leather swap meet, a brunch and victory party. I'll be there judging, so you'll be the first to know the results with photos!

In New Orleans, the Pantheon of Leather Awards is at Le Petit Theatre with the Mr. and Ms. Olympus Leather contest. Good luck in the voting!

In San Francisco, it's International Bear Rendezvous, with all sorts of shenanigans for the furry ones, including the International Mr. Bear Contest on Sunday night, Feb. 18 at the Gift Center. Most of the action will take place at the Ramada Plaza Civic Center, with a vendor fair and other goodies. Pub Crawl on Friday night, and since Monday is a holiday, it's an auction and continental breakfast at the hotel. No tickets will be sold at the door of the contest, so get yours now at the Bear Store on 9th Street.

Friday, Feb. 16

Cigar Party at the Sling, 926 Natoma, with doors open 2200 to 0200. Cover is \$20. For more info, e-mail tohotdang@sirius.com.

Constantines Mix 'N' Match beer/soda bust, and the club's 34th anniversary party at Daddy's from 1900-2200 with finger food, prizes all for only \$7.

Exiles of SF present *Abduction!*, hosted by Lynne Pierce at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930 to 2000. \$3 for members, \$5 for guests. Don't miss this one!

Saturday, Feb. 17

Inter-Club Fund annual awards ceremony and show at the California Club. Tickets are \$25 advance, \$30 door. Nominated for Person of the Year: Al Aden, Tom Galante, "Mama" Reinhardt, Cam Solar and Philip Turner.

In London, at the Hoist: Mr. Hoist Leather 2001 will be chosen and come to Chicago in May

to compete at IML.

In New York, Mr. Lure 2001 Fred Little stages a benefit for the AIDS Monument in NYC at his home bar.

Bear Boot & Bondage party with emphasis on bears tonight. To get all the info, click on www.best.com/~mcheter/boot.html. If you don't have a computer, I don't know what to tell you. And for terpsichorean delights, go to Harry Lit's "Sweat" dance party, ostensibly for bears and bear-lovers at Club Townsend — free before 2300, or \$14. You can get a free pass from PO Plus on Castro on 2/16-17, and it's an all-nighter!

Sunday, Feb. 18

Sweethearts Ball at the Sundance Saloon (174 King St.) to benefit Bay Area Breast Cancer Network, 1600-2300 and only \$8. Also, Back to the Brig II party at the Powerhouse, from 2100 to closing. Alleged "period" music from when it was the Brig, but you know how that goes!

Wednesday, Feb. 21

Underwear Buddies @ 933 Harrison tonight, with all your under-finery. Free coat check mandatory. Call 863-HEAD for details.

Leathermen's Discussion Group at 1900, Club Eros. Subject is: "Making Leather Porn," featuring the "actors" from Brush Creek Media. It's free!

Thursday, Feb. 22

Mr. May 2002 will be chosen at the Powerhouse tonight for the SOMA bare chest calendar. Judges Jeff Cilione, Ray Perea and John Evans (that hot DJ from KKSF, 103.7 FM) will do the scoring. Promptly at 2100.

Bob Miller steps aside for his successor tonight as the Mr. Edge Leather 2001 contest takes place at that bar. This one should be interesting, with a \$300 cash prize for the winner, who will go on to compete at Mr. SF Leather next month.

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Bacci ball

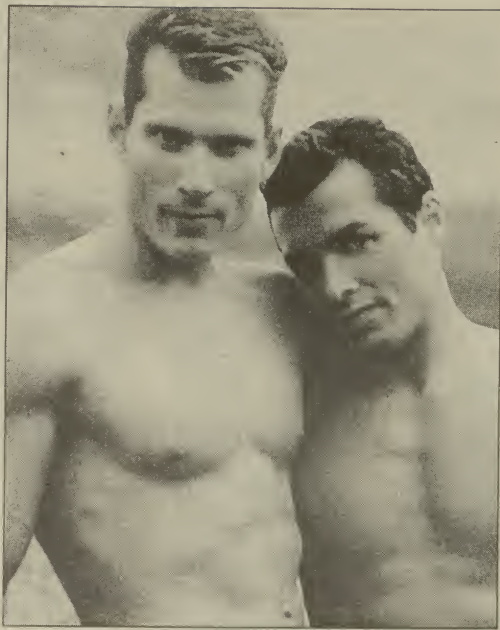
by John F. Karr

My infatuation with the robust body, thick cock and, most of all, the infectious happy personality of Nino Bacci has led me to some entertaining videos. The first is *Alex & Bruno*, a Canadian confection which features some intriguing residents of Montreal. They're a bracing change of pace from Americans, not in the overwhelmingly feral way of Berliners, and certainly not in the robotic Czech manner. These Canadians, as depicted by director Andre Tardif, have a relaxed sensuality that nonetheless simmers deeply. They always connect with each other, being ardent where we've come to expect only proficiency. They have big dicks, a frequency of foreskins, and interesting notions concerning the artful arrangement of body hair. One fellow has neatly latticed facial hair, which is as attractive there as the lack of any hair at all is around his crotch.

Alex & Bruno has an admirable simplicity of structure. Better, its connecting scenes maintain the sexuality of the movie, instead of interrupting it. What I don't like is the brevity of the whole thing. It's considerably shorter than 90 minutes, with nary a single sex scene that doesn't feel foreshortened — scenes that we sense should be feasts come off as tasty snacks. And the constant cutaways that interrupt the sex for editing purposes are big-time amateur. There are other surprisingly inept moments in *Alex & Bruno* —

at one point, the film slipped during production, and the video retains images of the sprocket holes jumping by!

Still, there's Nino, whose duet with the extremely pleasant Michel Mattel provides the film's juicy finale, and is, fortunately, the film's only scene to attain an appreciable 20-minute length. Mattel plays Alex, whose adventures the film details. We're told he's a voyeur, and as the movie begins we find him spying on a butch and muscular leatherman. In an opening number intense enough to have served as a finale, the dude applies gutsy abandon to servicing himself with a formidable array of dildoes, which range in size past therapeutic and entertaining to vision-inducing. Groping his cock roughly and savagely kneading his nipples, the leatherman plugs a fat



Nino Bacci and Michel Mattel in *Alex & Bruno*

dildo up his ass and bangs the exposed end of it with another he's taken in hand, all the while egging himself on with lasciviously murmured obscenities. At least I assume that's what they are, since he's talking in French, which is what they speak in Montreal while sitting on a dildo. I've been

known to speak it myself at such moments, and without even being in Canada. At any rate, the cliché sex phrases of porno are much more persuasively erotic when delivered in a foreign language. And there are subtitles for the stuff you really need to know.

Police action

In the second scene, we find out that Alex is also an exhibitionist, which gets him in trouble with the law. Shortly after Alex arouses himself on a balcony overlooking a congested thoroughfare, a cop arrives at his apartment. A complaint has been filed. The cop is rugged, hairy-chested but shaven-balled, and before long, his nightstick is poking out of Alex's butt.

As punishment, Alex is sent to a work farm in the lovely Canadian countryside, where his boss is

none other than Mr. Bacci, herein known as Bruno, and looking perfectly fetching with his denim coveralls hanging off one shoulder. But wait a moment. First come two tasty scenes with other residents of the camp — a juicy duo, and a five-man romp. Then, Alex finds Nino jacking off in the hayloft, with the camera adoring his solid physique, and the warm sun heating his golden skin. Following some beautiful solo display, and some expert cocksman-ship as the boys show off for each other, comes a scene that displays all of Nino's appreciable qualities. To his looks and personality, you can add that he's an accomplished sexualist. He's romantic without losing a fierce edge, and he's really into making out. And beyond details like piercing blue eyes and dimples, see how his high cheekbones let the muzzle of his face fit deeply into the crack of Alex's ass, and how devoutly, sweetly succoring, he rims.

Alex straddles Nino for some hefty bouncing, in a fucking that becomes rather rough. The movie ends with Nino pumping out a somewhat anguished load as Alex fingerbangs him rudely. Don't miss the jovial outtakes with the final credits. ▼

www.IMDvideo.com

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Shane Grogg, Peter Kokoszka and Gene White. Judges Keith Truitt, Glennon Sutter and Rod Wood had a field day with the questions, and the Bare Chest Chorus was in good form. When all was said and done, the tall, handsome Greg Graziani took the April 2002 spot, with Peter Kokoszka the runner-up. Mr. May 2002 will be chosen next Thursday, Feb. 22 at the Powhouse.

Leather updates

The Leather Archives & Museum's board of directors met recently, and Executive Director Joseph Bean advised them that what the museum really needs is a person with archival experience to

supervise the vast amount of historical items, documents, films, photos and other material being received from all over the world.

Joseph himself admits he has little or no experience in that area, and so it has been decided that a search will be conducted to find a person with the necessary educational requirements for such a task. Joseph will step down as the executive director, but will no doubt still be associated with the project. The person finally selected will, of course, be leather-oriented, so if you know anyone out there who might be interested, let me know and I'll forward it to the LA&M for consideration. No details as to salary are available right now.

Las Vegas, Nevada enters the leather title contest fray with the announcement by the Leather

Uniform Club of Las Vegas last week that their competition for Mr. Las Vegas Leather 2001 will be held the weekend of March 16-18. If you're in the vicinity, you might want to check it out. More info and details by e-mailing: LUCofLV.org.

Add Salt Lake City to the ever-growing list of cities to send men to Chicago to compete at IML. Salt Lake City's leather people will stage their Mr. Salt Lake City Leather contest on the weekend of March 9-11. For details, e-mail: flurpain@aol.com.

Oh, there's more, but I'll keep you informed in plenty of time in case you happen to be traveling around and need some leather action. Or you can click on www.leatherpage.com for leather news from this and many other cities. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Leather Buddies-Wed. 12/27
You: Short Asian, medium build, black leather vest. Me: White, bare bottomed, slim & smooth - serviced you. Talked, but no phone # asked, let's meet elsewhere. **72765**

New Years At Club Universe
Back room. You, cute boy in black. Me, feather mask, confetti thrower dancing with friend. Gave you string necklace and hug. Gotta have you! **72764**

Hole In The Wall Morning Of
Martin Luther King Day. Both briefly separated from friends. Me: leather. You: too, earlier. We'd had some kind of night. Sore. Friend took you away. Wanna meet again? **72820**

Supershuttle To SFO, Fri 12/22
10:30am, we shared the seat behind the driver. You were going to NY. I was going to Chicago. A woman talked about disadvantaged kids in LA. Want to meet for coffee? **72765**

Hickory St. X-Mas
U in kitchen and bartender: brown hair, brown beard, 10hr jacket & harness. I asked if your tits were real, you said they were completely organic. Call to make an opening. **72822**

Fubu Latin Man @ City Entainmt
Fri. 1/12, saw you later @ Shell Gas Station. I'm Latin guy w/N.Y. cap & white Audi. Let's connect? **72851**

Barnes & Noble 12/30
You: wearing backpack. I smiled at you a few times and all the way down the escalator. Want to meet for tea/coffee? **72766**

Sean- Saturday Night 12/30 Stud
We met outside Sugar and each thought we were familiar. I looked for you on the dance floor in hopes to continue our conversation. Any chance we still can? R. **72767**

"Anja," Mr NL & Indra, The Cafe Jan 2
The sexy cat/computer lady and Mister Gorgeous wanted by Swedish, ponytailed sailor, girlie. Unfortunately, I couldn't find my way back again... Do get in touch again! **72784**

"Jano," Sweet Good Boy, I Desire
Fluvio, please talk Jano into calling again or call yourself & tell me he is safe & in love with someone else. Steve, bear, Dolores SFG. I am wounded by his kisses. **72785**

Autocity Brushless Carwash
So. Van Ness, Wed. 17th, parted glances at the carwash. Gave you your cig. Remember your eyes, smile and more. What are the chances of getting together? **72819**

Thurs 12/21 18+ Church 3pm
You: cute Latino. Me: tall blonde Berkeley student. We tried but 3rd party interrupted. Let's try again. You call the shots... **72762**

Gap, Flood Building 1/7/01
We talked at the check out. Gap.com-athletic socks- platinum amex- Costco. I've seen you before- I would enjoy knowing you more. Please call. **72786**

New Years Eve @ Midnight Sun
You: Michael, 37, cute, newly arrival from San Diego, living in San Mateo. Genuine smart ass! Me: the tall handsome, fun, debonair guy you should have gone home with. Call. **72787**

Johnfrank Fri 1/12 10:30pm
Waiting for restroom. You: white shirt, good looking, nice smile, well build. Me: gray/black sweater, beard, short hair. Would like to continue where we left off. **72805**

Folsom Bookstore 1/9 7:45 pm
Me: black sweatshirt, army jacket. You: white shirt, beautiful vest, smile when you kiss. Your popper spilled. I blacked out. I'm humiliated, but need you in my bed. Second chance? **72807**

1/7 Moma Anderson Collection
And Gay Mens Chorus 12/3. You 5'8" Asian. Me 5'6", Caucasian. Lots of eye contact. Want to meet over coffee? Life's short- why not take a chance. **72821**

The Dark Crystal, Suggested I,
For your students. We, sheltered from the freezing rain, huddled, humbled by freezing rain, numbing wind, shook hands. Let's heal our crystal. Plant your shard! **72848**

Hot Cop @ SF Gay Parade 2000
You: Hop SF cop, GWM, salt & pepper hair. Me: GWM, grey beard- Hawaiian shirt- took your photo in Civic Center- would like you # & date. **72849**

Friday 1/26am Div @ Fell St. Stop Light
Friday morning, stopped at light on Divisadero. Both looked so we continued. Me: black Toyota. You: black/blue car? I took right on GG Ave & waved. Let's meet- have date. **72850**

Dancing WhiteHorse 1/26
You in my dreams. You: muscular, goatee, arm w/ tattoo, Latin features w/older glasses man. Me: shy, dancing within your vision & smile. Let's create magic!... Friday... call **72853**

Eros Sun 1/21
Hi Tim, I introduced myself as we were leaving. I had a great time. Dinner, movie, one more time? Me: 38 blonde/blue 5'10"/185. **72872**

01/21 In Front Of Daddy's
You: Bill. Me: waiting for my friend to go to dinner. It was so rushed. Let's pick up where we left off. Call me! I know what I'm hungry for! **72823**

Nate Poetry Teacher 23 Y.O.
You: Chinese Philosophy, History, Berkeley, BMW, bow ties. Matt would like to know you better. Your background intrigues me. Please let me know if it's mutual at China Cafe. **72874**

1/23 Union City Century 25
"The Pledge" 7:55 show. You sat high in back wearing a light blue jacket, khakis, and black ankle boots. Do you prefer to watch alone or would you like some company? **72852**

At The End Up Superbowl Sunday
Dancing in aisle, then you on dance floor. You: good dancer, blue eyes, dark hair, stylish. Me: longer hair, Latino, retro shirt, big shoes. Eyes met, cute smile. Wanna meet you! **72873**

19th St. @ Sanchez- Dan (?)
You gave me the best massage. I need your home #. Pls call. Mark **72806**

Millie Grazie, Jano
Thank you for your kisses. Steve, Dolores St. Bear SF **72854**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

SR GWM Seeks M.O.C.
GWM in S.F. sincere fit bearded, 67, 5'9", 155# HIV neg. N/D ISO mature masculine Black, Latino, over 45 for erotic play, J/O. **72768**

Wanted: Cuddly SF Bear/Cub-
GWM, 30-50, facial/body hair, versatile: share adventures, art, architecture, massage with GWM, 42, 6'-3", hairy/beard, versatile, leather, professional. No smoke/drugs. **72769**

Top Fuckbuddy Wanted
GWM, HIV+ 37yrs, bottom, seeks HIV+ hot top for hot erotic safe sex. Me: br, hzl, 6'1", love br, br, 50's but not required. No games apply. **72770**

Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy
LTR minded, only please. I am 38yo 5'11", 195 brown hr hazleeyes looking for a dad that is strict but loving heavy A+ diaper spanking fun. **72771**

Kabuki Theater 12/31 3:30pm
Me: Asian w/baseball cap says 'Canada'. You: White w/glasses @ balcony. You gave me big smiles. I was way too shy to respond to you. Wish to meet you. **72772**

Santa Rosa Area Or SF On Wknds
Seeking other hardbodies. I'm 47, handsome, smooth 39" c, 29" w, w/b abs 5'9", 145#, sincere spiritual, strong, & loving, enjoy hot tub, massage & hot sex. **72773**

Dominant Masculine WM
Goodlooking man with hard bod, 5-10, 165, 40ish professional seeks young, HIV- cleancut, 18-39 sub-boys for fun, possible LTR. **72774**

Best Buds
Masculine Italian topman ISO another masculine buddy to "hang" with. Drinks, dinner, movies, clubs, travel (vacations) etc. Looks, age, race, top or bottom not important. Masculine men only! **72789**

Live In Relationship E. Bay
58yr. old Germanic with large swantz and house seeks companionship in kitchen and bedroom. Be HIV+, healthy, bottom with talent on computer and a warm casserole. **72790**

Gentle Soul Seeks Same
GWM, 44, balanced, honest, communicative, playful, contemplative, settled yet adventuresome, enjoy film, reading, travel, gardening. Prefer N/S, N/D, light drinker, HIV-neg. Want sensual, romantic type for dating. LTR oriented. **72791**

Looking For Companionship
Gay Asian 65yrs 5-9 150lb need close contact with trim, goodlooking man under 40 for friendship, travel conversation and love. **72792**

Mulatto Guy Sexy, Educated
Intelligent, and good looking. Seeking guys for a relationship or just plain fun. Let's get together. **72825**

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. **72875**

Yogi Bear Seeks Boo-Boo Bear
Handsome, romantic HIV- top 210# 5'11" brown hair green eyes 42, seeks HIV- btm bear cub 37-45 for dating, intimate encounters and possible ltr. N/S, N/D pref. **72855**

Seeking Tall Husky Hair Top
You: Over 6' husky to stocky, hairy a plus. Me: balding salt & pepper, 5'9", aug build, 40's seeking versatile play partner. **72793**

Erotic Liaison.
Sexy mature man seeks bossy, aggressive man, any age. We do what ever you say. Otherwise sociable & equal. **72808**

Handsome Animal/Plant Lover
Kind, gentle, sensitive, strong, masculine, easy-going, playful, self-aware. Passion for nature, kissing, cuddling, sucking, homelife. Seek same who is a homeowner. I'm 48, youthful athletic, 6'2", 190lbs. Very good looking, shave head, mustache. **72809**

Middle Age Black Gentleman
Seeks middle age Hispanic gentleman. I'm sincere, honest, discreet and have much to share. Big plus if you are husky and have dark hair, skin and moustache. **72810**

Financially Secure Male Wanted
I am seeking a mate who is financially secure for a relationship or fun and good times. Call me. **72824**

Love To Suck
Men 6' or more for a steady relationship. I'm 6'2", 165 GWM. Come after work or short time on weekends. I go deep and take it all! **72826**

GWM 42 Good Heart!
Me: 6'3" green/blue eyes, 200lbs, s&p hair versatile btm - like music, movies & the good life! You: 30-45yo, sincere & fun HIV- only please. **72827**

Cautious, Continentsious, In-
Shape 40 yr GWM (6'2"-180) loves mutual butt munching & j/o, nice guy seeks another equally clean, disease free and capable serial monogamy for ongoing unlibited encounters. **72828**

Concord Guy Seeking A Boyfriend
I'm a GWM 36yo, 5'8", 142lbs. Nice cock. Friendly, horny, and cute. Only for WGM 18 to 40. No fats. You won't be sorry! **72829**

Real Person Wanted
36, professional, WM, sensitive, looking for friendship and maybe more. You 25-45, WM, down to earth and know what you are looking for in another. **72830**

Top Dad ISO Hot Poz Boy 4 LTR
GWM 43, 6'0", 195#, s/p, hz, goatee, masc. top. UR: 38, WH/Lat All-American boy w/doge- lean 2 musc, w/gf/b butt. Vanilla 2 leather. **72831**

Very Lonely Solano County Man
45yo WM affectionate, honest, sincere, loving, seeks similar to be a friend, maybe more. I like men with moustache's; I look forward to your call. **72832**

"I'm A Great Catch!!!"
WM, late thirties, brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6'1", 185lbs, clean-shaven, gym going, academic, HIV-, nice, warm, engaging, communicative, non-superficial, engaging, humorous. You: 25-45, college educated, professional, dark hair and eyes. **72788**

VGL Latine Boy ISO Hot, Young
Gentle dad type. Me: 5'7", 135, HIV+ bottom. You: stable, fun, 40-55, ltr oriented, to spoil a good "boy". Please call. **72833**

Hot French Love
French guy in 30's 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. **72834**

2001 Odyssey
Befriend this sensuous senior who will transport you into outer space. 5'11", 150, hazel eyes, wavy hair, great kisser. Prefer slim Latinos or Asians. Let's wine, dine, romance in Hayward. **72856**

HIV+ Latin Male
39, 5'8", 155 lb, am eyes looking for ltr with HIV+ male Latin or White. Me top-very open minded and enjoy a good looking man's company. Call if interested. **72857**

Top Fuckbuddy Wanted
GWM, HIV+ bottom; ISO HIV+ top, for erotic man to man pleasure play. Me, bl, hzl, 6'1", slim. **72858**

"Teach Me!"
Bl guy 40, smooth, clean, nice buns, HIV-vgl 6', 175lbs, bottom, closeted, seeks HIV-m top, your place. **72876**

Raver/Urban Hipster Types
Me: 35, GLIM 5'10", 135 dark brown hair eyes. Nice worldly. You: light eyes. Nice personality smile. No heavy drugs. Cuddly, romantic, passionate. Sagittarian friendly. Like dancing. **72877**

Attention Big Tall Guys
Are you hung enough to try my pink hole? Lean Asian 30's mustache; sparse hair, wanted to get plowed deep and hard all the way. Fantasy gentleman can provide this. HIV- glory hole available. **72879**

Attn: Daytime Cock Suckers!!
Got some freetime and would love a perfectly beautiful 7'cut cock w/big low hangers to suck on. Mature gentleman can provide this. HIV- glory hole available. **72879**

Hot Hairy Muscle Dad
5'8", 170lbs 46, dark hair, 9 uncut top seeks White, Latino, Asian, son 21-35 bottom, slim plus HIV- N/S, N/D not into bars. For ltr. **72880**

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Filipino Top Wanted
GBM 40 is seeking a Filipino top for fun. Any age. Looks not important. **72882**

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Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

"Fuck Me, Daddy!"

Blond, in-shape, 45yo bot/son seeks hung, 60+ top/dad into working my tight clean butt-hole. [72841](#)

Hairless Bubblebutt Bottom

Wanted by WM 48, 6' 175 gym toned with nice dick & ass top HIV+. Be in shape. I am Asian. Black rimmers A+++. [72775](#)

Palo Alto Asian Male 44 5'11"

190 blk-bm likes to suck cock that does n't get rock hard for me to deep throat. Prefer Peninsula area and between 3pm to 10pm your place. [72776](#)

South Bar

58, 1k younger, 6' 212, shavedhead & body, uninhibited, sub. bottom seeks dom. top(s) to play with, 50-70, cauc, sincere, exper. your place. [72777](#)

Straight

Looking for hot straight cocks to suck on by two deep throat experts. Good-looking and Latinos are a plus. [72778](#)

Help Me From This Torture Exdesire

Oversized +120 smooth GWM 37, 220, 5'8" seeks open minded men 18-45 for ongoing sex action only. Your place week. Discretion guaranteed. No drugs. Serious only. [72779](#)

Hairy Blond Or Red Head Bottom

Is what I'm looking for. I'm 38 & 200lb. A hairy Italian with 8 inches. Call if you love hot oral & anal action. [72794](#)

Filipino Top Wanted

GBM 40 is seeking a Filipino top for fun. Any age, looks not important. (Please call). [72795](#)

GWM Ass For Asian Cock To Fuck

Need Asian tops to fuck my asshole while I'm on my belly. Me: Caucasian, mature, hairy, stocky, big ass. You: slender, smooth, HIV- Asian man who likes to fuck ass. [72796](#)

Young European Boy

This very cute submissive boy from Europe is ready to be trained by you or your friends in their 20's or 30's only. Total obedience is guaranteed. [72797](#)

Oral Service

GWM, 45 br/bl, g'tee, 5'8", 160, healthy loves to give oral service to guys my age or older. Muscular, hairy A+. Oakland/SF. [72798](#)

Age 46 But Hung And Horny Man

Needs good head 2-3x weekly. Oakland area. Please no voicemail, beginners, games, beads or goates. All ages, races and body types welcome, if serious. [72840](#)

Sonoma County Resident

45yrs old Latino gay male. I love nice hard dick to suck, fuck. I have nice hot, wet ass for you. [72799](#)

Seeking Serious Nipple Wkout Buddy

46yr old stocky, 190# bear btm, nip pig with huge erect nips bm/bm, tats, piercing, salt & pepper, goatee, smoker, masc muscular dominant nip-pig "bear daddy" for serious nip workout sessions. [72890](#)

Handsome Top Seeks Bottoms

Hey guys, I am blond, 38, hung 8 inches uncut, in-shape, 5'8", 160 and fun. You are in-shape, bottom and very friendly. Let's play now. [72800](#)

So Far Still Straight But...

38yr old Italian Irish 5'8", 165lbs, 31" waist 7"x5" cut huge, head shaved bald and ass, bikini tan line, masculine, good looking seeks hung Black cocks and ass. [72811](#)

I Love My Dad/ 5'9" 190lbs 42

GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. [72812](#)

Skinhead Muscular Wrassler

Hairy goateed skinhead wrassler bear ISO romper brawlin' bears and stomper agro skins into NHB wrassler and fightin' for top bareassed in boots; leather; stim; military kit; belts; chains. [72813](#)

Big Man Bottom Into Butt Play

Straight acting 6'2"-210lb. looking for tops into FF, toys, open to other play. [72814](#)

I Am Looking For Hung Guys!

I am seeking guys who are hung at least 9- inches or larger for fun and good times. Please give me a call. [72835](#)

Italian Guys! I Am Seeking

Just the right Italian guy for fun and a good time. If you are hung or good looking a plus. Call me. [72836](#)

I'm A Sucker For Older Men

Bi WM looking for older, senior men- 50's, 60's, 70's. Black, White, Latino, Asian- Straight, Bi, gay. Not getting enough at home? I like it cut, big + flop-py. [72837](#)

Handsome Hung Italian

Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. [72838](#)

Uncut? Over 55? Gay Or Straight

Just the right Italian guy for fun and a good time. If you are hung or good looking a plus. Call me. [72839](#)

Fist Fucking Hands Video's

Make me copy of any ff video you have, in return, I fist fuck you while viewing. [72864](#)

Great Blow Job

Talented cute 36yo hungry cocksucker seeks 28-48yo hung thick guy to suck off regularly. Prefer easy-going guy of any race with slim to medium build. Like verbal encouragement. [72842](#)

Wanted- Fuck Buddy

Good-looking GWM 43 (looks 35), short dark hair, moustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks a hot fuck buddy for occasional get togethers. Must be under 35, good looking. All nationalities welcome. [72843](#)

B & D And/Or S & M Mentor Sought

Curious guy seek intro from man to one or in groups. Kink optional. Bearded, not buffed, rugged looking A+. No pain, S&M, gay scenes, drugs but smoking ok. [72844](#)

Wht Guy Lkg 2 Submit 2 Blk Guys

47, large White guy, 5'8" light brown hair, green eyes, good looking, total bottom needs to be dominated by Black guy. Nasty talk and come kink is good. [72845](#)

East Bay

Appreciative, mature Academic male seeks Gay, Straight, Bi, exhibitionist or curious, 25-50 for private encounters at his home. [72846](#)

Versatile Fuckbuddy Wanted

45, 6'2", 195 HIV+ wants fuckbuddy. Vanilla to kink & SM/leather prefer, fit to husky creative Black, White, Latino men, cut with nipple & jack fetch a plus. [72860](#)

E/B Versatile White Male

Well proportioned, mature, HIV-, 5'7", 150, ISO HIV- versatile males in E/ So Bay. Safe Sex. Your age/ race/ looks/ marital status, not important. Please no games or pagers. [72862](#)

FF Bottom Wanted

If you also love to suck dick for long time, the world is yours guy. Also into fucking, rimming (clean), w/s, bondage and CBT. If you fit this profile, you're in for a great time. [72863](#)

I Love My Dad/ 5'9" 190# 42 GWM

Seeking kind, sexy, very hairy daddy-types 40-62 for sincere romance, fun & passion. Love to cuddle and kiss. Must have fun & out going personality. [72886](#)

Young Boys For Training

This very cute boy from Europe will under go any type of training you or your friends will decide. Must be in your 20's or 30's. [72885](#)

FF Butts Wanted

Make me copy of any ff tape. My med hands up your butt for hours BM+ welcome. 5'9", 185. [72865](#)

Mature GWM ISO Fisting Buddy

Older, in-shape and sleazy versatile fister looking for versatile fisting buddies for regular sessions. Age/race not important. Let's trade fists. [72881](#)

Naked Beer Drinking

Need a masculine lean bodied guy to drink beer with as I take care of your oral needs or vice versa. Lean WM 42 likes younger or same age. Hairy a plus. [72883](#)

"Seniors"

I'm a WM 6' 165lbs. 45yo & I enjoy giving sensual oral pleasure to seniors; one on one or in groups. Kink optional. Bearded, not buffed, rugged looking A+. No pain, S&M, gay scenes, drugs but smoking ok. [72884](#)

35 GAM Seeks GWM

You, 30-42, GWM like bedtime stories. Me: 5'8", 160lbs; like to be bottom call if interested. [72887](#)

Ride My Bushy Moustache

& feel my tongue up your butt. Me: 6', 165# bm/blu 42. You: hot and ready. [72859](#)

Joint Venture

GF seeks GM whom needs a friend. Your European or Asian. Let's talk!! [72861](#)

Working Stiff Seeks Massage

Buddy. Would love good, deep tissue rub-down but can't afford it. Want like-minded pal to exchange once or twice 2 week, full body, serious, but fun. [72888](#)

On My Knees

46yr old, HIV+ healthy, 5'8", 160, br/bl, g'tee loves to be on my knees giving oral service. My age or older. Muscular, hairy A+ Oakland/ SF. [72889](#)

LESBIAN**GAM Seeks GAF For Support**

Came from traditional family. Seeking Asian females in the same situation to discuss option in helping each other. [72815](#)

FETISHES**Daytime Asshole-Eater!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! [72816](#)

Seeking Serious Workout Buddy

I'm a 46yr old stocky 190# serious nippig with huge erect nipples. Br/bm, salt & pepper, tats & piercings, smoker ISO super masc. muscular dominant nip pig "daddy" for serious wk outs with growth in mind. Please call- smoker + + +. [72780](#)

Ski Mask Bandit

White punk, 28, wears ski masks, derby jackets, swallows big cocks. Cholos, blue collars, kinky tops, boot stompers only. [72781](#)

Big Bro With Firm Hand

Me: 36yo big bro type 5'11", 185, warm, honest, skilled. You: 18-40 in reasonable shape who needs to be spanked. Genuine, no-nonsense discipline to erotic play. [72782](#)

Favorite Uncle Seeks Butt

Energetic favorite uncle type seeks masculine nephews 20-40 with manageable muscle butts. Pure hot pleasure by a pro. [72783](#)

Seeking Serious Nipple WkOut Buddy

46yr old stocky 190# bear btm, nip-pig with huge erect nips. Br/bm, tats, piercings, salt & pepper goatee, smoker. ISO super masc. dominant nip-pig "bear daddy" for serious nip wkout sessions with growth in mind. Smoker A++ Please call. [72802](#)

Thirsty Throat And Rimmer

Mature GWM seeks thirsty throat any age, race. Offers 6-pk, also butt for li zard tongue rimmer. Has hard strong legs, family size nozzle. HIV neg, std clean, discreet. U also. [72803](#)

Got Cum?

I'll take it off your hands--er, balls! Getting you to shoot your max every time proves, I'm probably Bay Area's MAC (most accomplished cocksucker)! [72804](#)

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Deep throat expert has 6-pack for well endowed men who will quench his thirst with hot golden liquid. [72817](#)

Oral Fetishes

WM 44, 6', 160lbs. dk hr. The sight of someone sucking on eyeglass stems, pens, etc. turns me on & make me submissive. All types welcome. [72818](#)

Pig Hole, Begs For Nasty Foul Mouth

Top fist pig. Make it yours. The ultimate hole, proud to show off. This hole is serious, you be too. Punch me crazy if your serious and want a hole you turn into the biggest sloppiest hole, the kinkier the better. I want to be able to take anything you want to give, no limits I can think of the strangest the better. [72847](#)

Cowboy Leather Fetish

Handsome, clean professional man 48 collects cowboy chaps, spurs, custom boots, gloves, hats, vests and seeks men with same fetish for friendship, fun and cowboy games. [72866](#)

I Get Down And Get Under

Under you I lick, suck and deep French kiss your hot asshole. Take your seat and enjoy. White, brown and yellow recycling. Your place, your way. Quickies, or prolonged sessions. [72867](#)

Daytime Asshole-Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! [72868](#)

6 Spurts? 7/8? Bingo (10)?!!

Great cocksucking means more spurts. Let me show you how great I am. Spurts speak louder than words. Will I make you a lo? [72869](#)

Magnificent Ass Obsession

Seeking athletes with firm, proud buttocks. Bearded WM, 42, slowly exposes, massages, tongues, gently spansks and probes your quivering, taut ass cheeks. Mirrors. [72891](#)

Young Slave From Europe

Very cute and obedient Mediterranean boy into spanking, FF, slave/dog training, etc. Must be in your 20's or 30's only. [72892](#)

Quench My Thirst

Looking for guys who want to piss in my mouth. 60yo, 5'10", 170lbs, in good shape, thirsty. [72893](#)

My Feb. Birthday Bi Threesome

Me: bi, HM, 53, ISO young bi-men (18-20) only for day time fun, discreet, clean-sober, 69, French, Greek, jack-off! [72894](#)

OTHERS**Man-To-Man Beatings....**

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Workout Naked?

Do you have a home, gym or private workout area? Am seeking naked workout partner in 415 or 650. Me: fit WM thirty something seeking good workout. [72871](#)

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Tuning into the movies

by Gregg Shapiro

Some of the movies from which the soundtracks in this column are derived may have already come and gone, and rightfully so. Perhaps they've already shown up on the shelves of your favorite video store, or on a pay-per-view channel. For some of these movies, it's their soundtracks that live on, long after the light from the projector fades.

Snatch - Original Film Soundtrack (TVT) is the best soundtrack of the bunch, and the one that stands the best chance of success. The 20 tracks are a mix of movie dialogue (Brad Pitt's mumbling bare-knuckle boxer, Dennis Fari-

na's New York diamond dealer, Alan Ford's violent "business man"), classic '80s British punk/New Wave ("Golden Brown" by the Stranglers, "Ghost Town" by the Specials), classic R&B (Maceo & the Macks, Bobby Byrd), and contemporary sensations (Massive Attack, Oversee, Mirwais). Director Guy Ritchie even found a way to include a classic contribution from his new wife Madonna ("Lucky Star").

The Family Man - Music From the Motion Picture (Sire) and *Finding Forrester* - Music From the Motion Picture (Columbia/Legacy/Sony Music Soundtrax) also draw from musical sources, both new and old. *Finding Forrester* is mostly composed of jazz compo-

sitions by such legendary performers as Miles Davis and Ornette Coleman. Bill Frisell contributed the newest compositions. This soundtrack is a far cry from the one from director Gus Van Sant's previous movie, *Good Will Hunting*, which was a showcase for singer/songwriter Elliott Smith and other cutting-edge modern rock acts.

The thought process behind Seal singing "This Could Be Heaven," the theme song to the Nicolas Cage/Tea Leoni winter holiday flick, might have had something to do with the success the one-named singer had with a song from a *Batman* movie. The song is almost as schmaltzy as the movie and might even earn Oscar consideration. The other new song on the soundtrack, Elvis Costello's "You Stole My Bell," reminded me of Aimee Mann's recent soundtrack work, *Magnolia*. The irony is that Costello and Mann have collaborated in the past. The people who assembled *The Family Man* soundtrack earn extra points on the silly scale for including tracks by Mecedades ("Eres Tu") and Mr. Big ("To Be with You"). Score composer Danny Elfman gets space at the end of the soundtrack with the instrumental main title and "Promise."

Goth metal punk is the order of the dark day on *Dracula 2000* - Music From the Dimension Motion Picture (DVD/Columbia/Sony Music Soundtrax). The 15 tracks are a good representation of this growing musical genre, combining contributions by established



Jennifer Esposito and Jonny Lee Miller in *Dracula 2000*



James Marsden in the cheerleader comedy *Sugar & Spice*

(Powerman 5000, Slayer, Monster Magnet, Static X, Pantera), upcoming (Disturbed, System of a Down, Godhead, Linkin Park, Taproot) and somewhat lesser-known metallurgists (Saliva, Flybanger, Half Cocked, Endo). Your ears may bleed long before the vampires have a chance to bite your neck.

Twin exploits

Twin Falls Idaho is guaranteed to be available for home rental, in case you feel like dinner and a movie at home. If you missed this incredible independent feature about Siamese twin brothers, their erotic exploits, and the mission of one to save the ailing other, it's an unforgettable cinematic experience. Stuart Matthewman's score (W.A.R./Kramden) is as haunting and exotic as the movie itself. The mostly instrumental score is enhanced by Lisa Ekdahl's cover of the standard tune "When Did You Leave Heaven" and Mark Anthony Thompson's performance of the song "Don't Grow," which was co-written by Thompson, Matthewman, and one of the film's costars, M. Polish. If you recognize Matthewman's name, it could be because he has been collaborating with Sade since her first domestically released album in the mid-1980s.

Chocolat was one of 2000's unexpected cinematic sensations,

while *All the Pretty Horses* (directed by Billy Bob Thornton and starring Matt Damon) turned out to be one of the year's biggest disappointments. Music from the Miramax Motion Picture *Chocolat* (Miramax Records/Sony Music Soundtrax/Sony Classical) and Music from the Motion Picture *All the Pretty Horses* (Miramax Records/Sony Music Soundtrax/Sony Classical) are as different as their movies. Rachel Portman's score for *Chocolat* ranges from sweet to semisweet to bittersweet, while the score to *All the Pretty Horses* (co-written by Marty Stuart, Kristin Wilkinson and Larry Paxton), in combination with the contributions from Daniel Lanois and Bill Monroe, is a somewhat Western experience.

Music from the Motion Picture *Sugar & Spice* (Trauma) has the movie's cute energy, beginning with Cindy Alexander's peppy cover of Tom Petty's "American Girl." The remaining tracks have a Blink 182 vibe, the highlights of which include Lefty's "Girls," Noogie's "I'd Rather Float," the Flys' "She's So Huge," Size 14's "Let's Rob a Bank," Spiderbait's retro "Shazam," and Juno Reactor's funky instrumental "Pistolero." However, Republica's "Ready To Go" is becoming one of the most overused songs in recent memory, and its inclusion on this soundtrack proves my point. ▼



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Lavender Tube

◀ page 35

stood in the shower the morning after in Elizabeth Mitchell's apartment.

Speaking of queer moments, on *PI* Naomi Judd attempted to simulate a sex act on Sen. Barbara Boxer to illustrate a story she was telling. Boxer got out of her seat to avoid it and said, "You scare me." At show's end, the Republican Naomi said, "You and I obviously have very different core values, but we do have something in common. Want to come and see *The Vagina Monologues* with me?" And they say Wynona is the closet case.

From closet cases to nut cases, Gregory Noel and Margery Knoller, owners of the dog who savagely killed Diane Whipple, have been pleading their sociopathic case on TV. These two make John and Patsy Ramsey look positively cuddly. Knoller gave the chilling second-by-second account of the horrific mauling on *GMA* (just the thing to listen to over breakfast). The most astonishing aspect of her account was her insistence that this "wasn't an attack." An incredulous Elisabeth Vargas exclaimed, "But Ms. Whip-

ple is dead!" Knoller merely reiterated her statements.

On *20/20* Noel, whose manner calls to mind the Third Reich, explained why Whipple was to blame for her own hideous death. But *Dateline* investigated the origin of the dogs, their relationship to America's most cruelly inhumane prison, Pelican Bay (about which CBS's *60 Minutes* did a chilling exposé several years back), and the seemingly incontrovertible fact that Noel and Knoller knew the dogs had been trained to kill.

Whipple's domestic partner, Sharon Smith, spoke to NBC about filing a lawsuit against Noel and Knoller, asserting that since Whipple had been attacked once before, they knew the dogs were dangerous.

The creepiest bit of news reported by NBC: breeders are now getting calls requesting "the kind of dog that killed that woman."

Finally, a major sweeps VCR alert: The mini-series *Life with Judy Garland* premieres on ABC Sunday Feb. 25, starring the incomparable Academy Award-winning actress Judy Davis as the gal who sparked the queer revolution, Judy Garland. An absolute must-see. ▼

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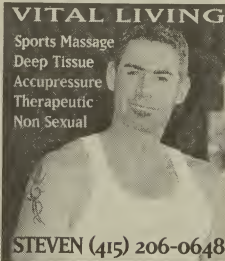
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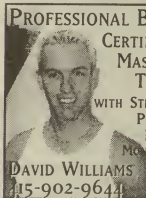
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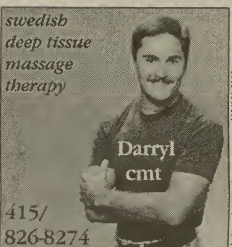
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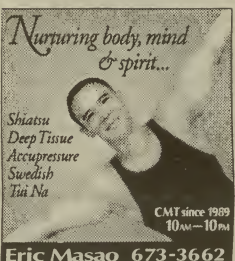
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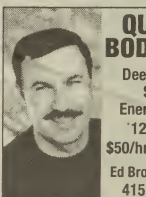
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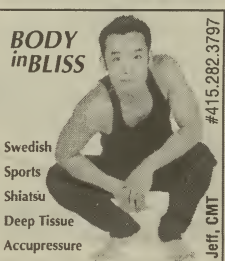
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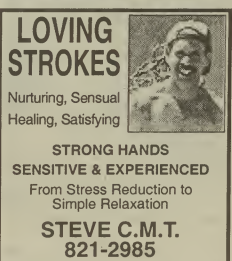
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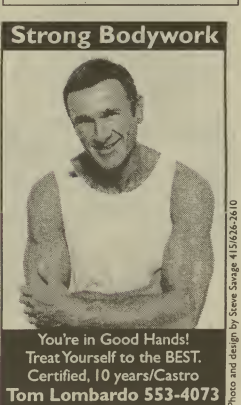


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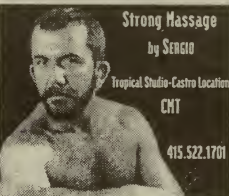
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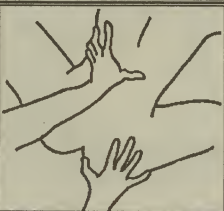
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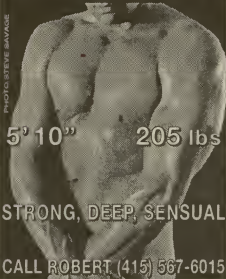
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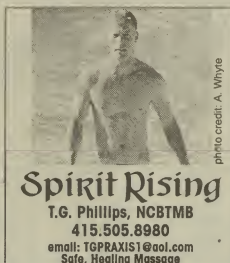
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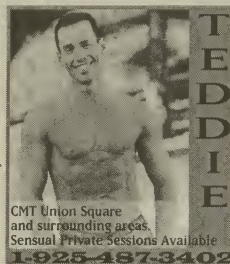
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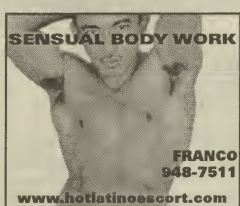
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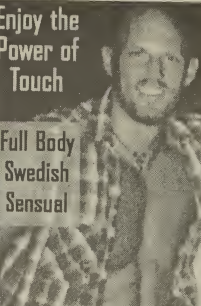
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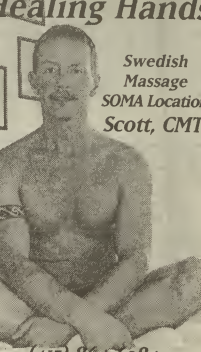
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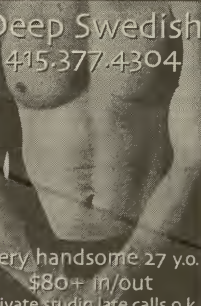
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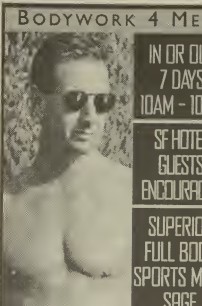
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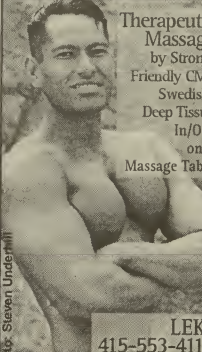
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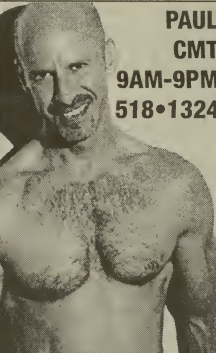
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Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk
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PGR: 201.6533
IN/OUT
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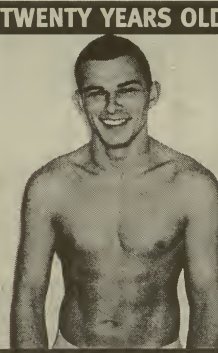


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SM, BD, FF, WS
FANTASIES
Verbal, Affectionate
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TWENTY YEARS OLD



Page: Josh 415.414.3263

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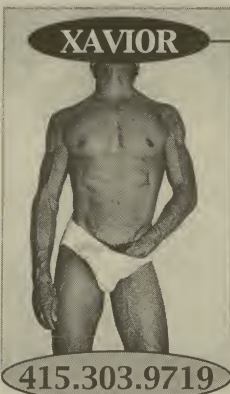
10" X 6" CUT 6' 6" 220 BR/BL 45YO
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All scenes -kink- 24 hrs 255-8093
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Sexy, nice body, athletic, open-mind-
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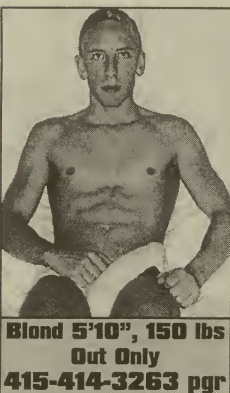
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Black Inches**

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Beginner? Have playspace & equip.
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Gym built and beautifully hung
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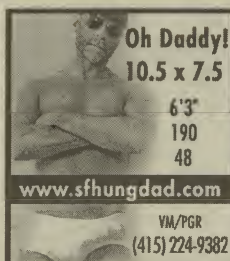
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48

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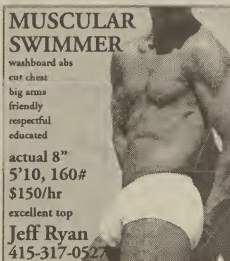
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DOMINANT TOP**

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HUNG 9 CUT-N-THICK

EXTREMELY GOOD LOOKING, HOT ITALIAN
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5'10, 160#
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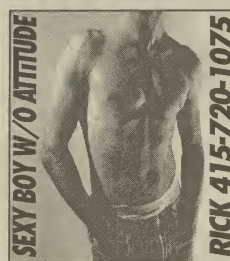
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SERVING YOUR NEEDS.**
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W/ BIG TOOL**
25yo 6' 165# muscular, tatooed,
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Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
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ESCORT
IN SAN JOSE



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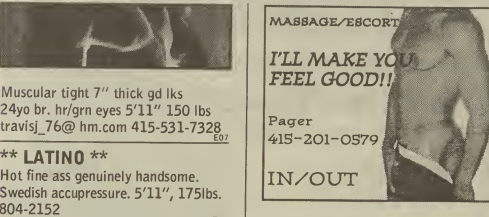
5'9", 200#
uncut, WS, FF, Mild to Wild



RICH 219-5034

MASSAGE/ESCORT

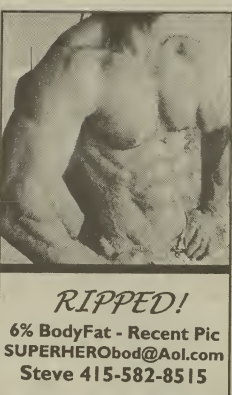
I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD!!



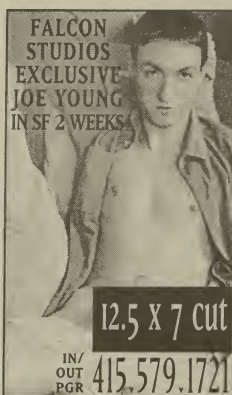
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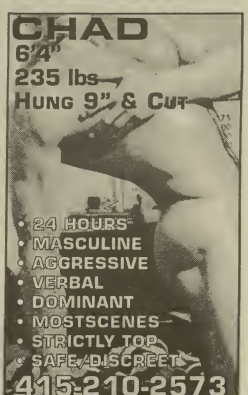


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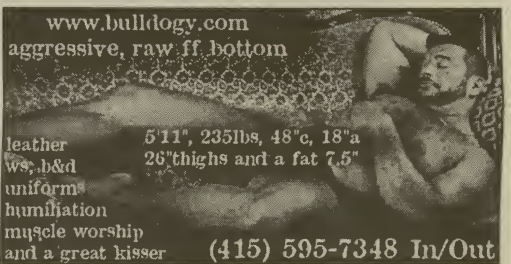
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